

GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Welcome to the 2008 edition of our Newsletter.

My thanks again to Bernadette Cunningham for her sterling work on the notices of books and research guides. I would like to thank Margaret Murphy and Brian Shanahan of the Discovery Programme for submitting articles in circumstances in which they have so much else to do. I thank David Fleming for help with the report on our Theme Conference held jointly with the Agricultural History Society of Ireland in All Hallows College, Drumcondra, in March of this year.

The theme conference, *Farming Systems and Settlement*, was a great success. Although she was unable to attend our secretary Linda Doran did an enormous amount of work in preparation for the conference and the smooth running of the conference was due to her efforts and those of our treasurer Niamh Crowley. Other members of our committee who attended played an important role as well.

This year our outing is to Portumna in east county Galway. We will be based in The Shannon Oaks Hotel. The list of speakers and lectures, abstracts and information concerning registration and other fees may be found at the back of this Newsletter.

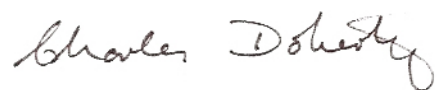
Our annual meeting at the conference will be of particular importance since we will be presenting a new constitution for consideration to members. I must thank David Fleming for the great work that he did in negotiating with the Revenue Commissioners on our behalf and for the various drafts that have allowed us to arrive at our present position.

I hope you will find this issue of the Newsletter of interest. I would make a special appeal to our conference speakers to contribute articles for the next issue. The articles in this issue are a guide to the length required.

David Fleming and I are charged with the construction of a proper web site. We will report as we progress towards a completed site. In the meantime see the weblog site below.

<http://homepage.mac.com/charles.doherty/iblog/B1068827693/index.html>

After you first log on make a bookmark of the site. Give it a name (why not **GSiHS**). Place it in your menu-bar for easy reference and then all future visits will require just one click.



April 17, 2009

Articles

**Agriculture and rural settlement
in Medieval Wexford
– revisiting the documentary sources**
Margaret Murphy
*(Project Historian,
Medieval Rural Settlement Project,
The Discovery Programme)*

Introduction

The pivotal role occupied by agriculture in medieval society is demonstrated by the range and number of record types designed to document, describe and enumerate aspects of agrarian management. A large proportion of these documents relate to the manor, one of the most important institutions operating in medieval society. Substantial areas of Ireland became manorialised from the twelfth century onwards. The systematic recording of land-use, manorial buildings and other resources was introduced by the Anglo-Normans and became widespread by the middle of the thirteenth century. The survival rate of these documents has been poor for Ireland in comparison with many parts of England, making it all the more essential to fully utilise those sources which remain.

A significant number of manorial documents have survived for Co. Wexford in the period 1250–1350. These documents have been regularly mined for agricultural and settlement information by historians from the nineteenth century onwards. Nevertheless, this paper advocates revisiting the documentary sources for medieval Wexford and proposes, by the use of specific examples, that a more systematic and quantitative approach to the study of agriculture and rural settlement is possible.

Up to the present day most of the documents have been accessed by scholars through the calendars and transcripts made by Philip Hore and H.S. Sweetman.¹ Medievalists have cause to be eternally grateful to these and other scholars whose research has preserved the content of many records which were subsequently lost. In cases where the original still exists, however, there is often extra information to be found and frequently this information is of interest to the economic and agrar-

ian historian. While Hore published almost full transcripts of some of the manorial accounts for Old Ross, he abbreviated others ‘to prevent the repetition of similar paragraphs and to confine the extracts within moderate bounds’. These account rolls, dating from the 1280s, are preserved in the National Archives of the United Kingdom at Kew, London [TNA] and the majority has never been fully edited and translated.² Until recently, the text of most of the manorial extents relating to Wexford could only be found in calendared form, again with some details omitted. The necessity of returning to the original Latin text of the extents has now been removed by a publication by the List and Index Society.³ This gives the full text, in English, of inquisitions and extents relating to lands in medieval Ireland which are preserved in TNA.

Overview of Wexford’s medieval settlement hierarchy

By the middle of the thirteenth century much of Wexford had been comprehensively settled and manorialised by the Anglo-Normans.⁴ All of the towns and boroughs they founded had attached manors with demesnes and tenurial lands held by the burgesses alongside other classes of manorial tenants. (See figure 1 on page 2) In addition there were a number of manorial villages or centres, comprising a lordly residence with associated farm buildings and monopolies such as mills along with a small amount of clustered peasant small-holdings.

Settlement was much denser in the secure south of the county and manorial villages were partic-

¹ P.H. Hore, *History of the town and county of Wexford*, vol. 1 (London, 1901); H.S. Sweetman, *Calendar of documents relating to Ireland, 1171–1307*, 5 vols (London, 1875–86).

² For a full Latin and English edition of the 1284–5 account for Old Ross see M.C. Lyons, ‘An account for the manor of Old Ross, September 1284–September 1285, parts I & II’, *Decies*, 28–9 (1981–2), 33–40, 18–31.

³ P. Dryburgh and B. Smith (eds), *Inquisitions and extents of medieval Ireland*, List and Index Society, vol. 320 (London, 2007).

⁴ Billy Colfer, *Arrogant trespass: Anglo-Norman Wexford, 1169 – 1400* (Wexford, 2002) provides a comprehensive account of settlement in the medieval county.

ularly plentiful on the well-drained, fertile lands of the south-west. In this area also were located the houses and lands of the newly founded religious communities. The two Cistercian houses at Tintern and Dunbrody and the Knights Templar at Kilcloggan/Templeton had substantial farms or

granges, while in the fourteenth century a community of Carmelite Friars settled at Horetown, situated to the west of Taghmon. Further north and on the right bank of the River Slaney, the Knights Hospitallers had a sizeable holding at Ballyhoge.

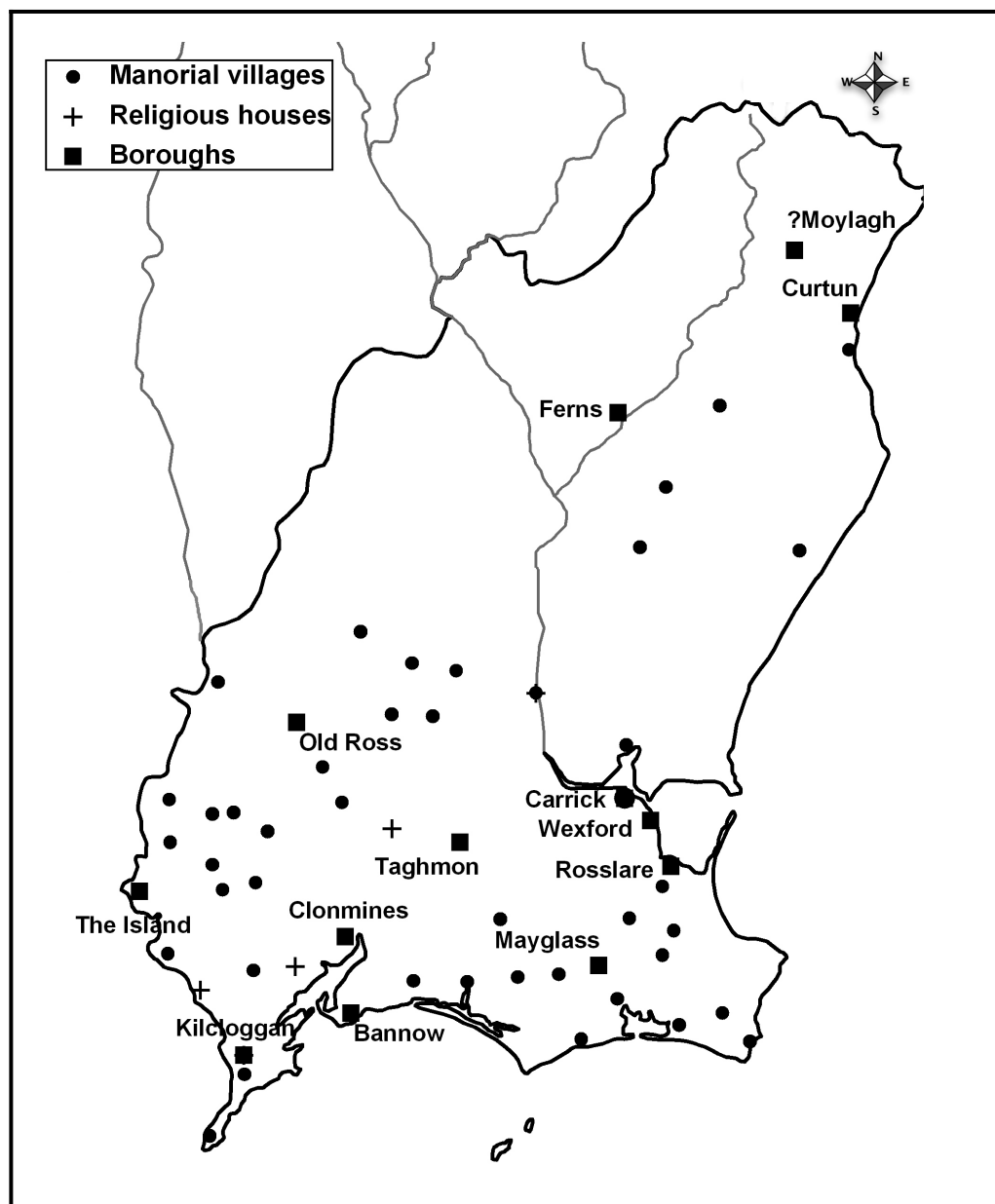


Figure 1 Settlement hierarchy in Wexford c. 1300 (Based on Colfer, *Arrogant Trespass*)

Manorial documents: extents

Manorial documents fall into two broad categories.⁵ In the first are those which present a snapshot of the various resources of the manor at a given moment. They provided manorial owners and administrators with detailed information about manorial assets and they served as a benchmark for assessing the actual and potential yield of the manor. Documents such as extents, rentals and inventories are found in this category. Extents are particularly useful as a source for land-

use information as they commonly detail acreages under arable, meadow, pasture and wood on the manorial demesne. Some extents describe the manorial buildings and list resources such as mills, dovecots, warrens etc. Land-use on the tenant holdings is not detailed but numbers of the different types of tenant are frequently given, along with size of holding and description of rents and or services included.

⁵ For a detailed description of manorial documents see Mark Bailey, *The English manor c. 1200–c. 1500* (Manchester, 2002).

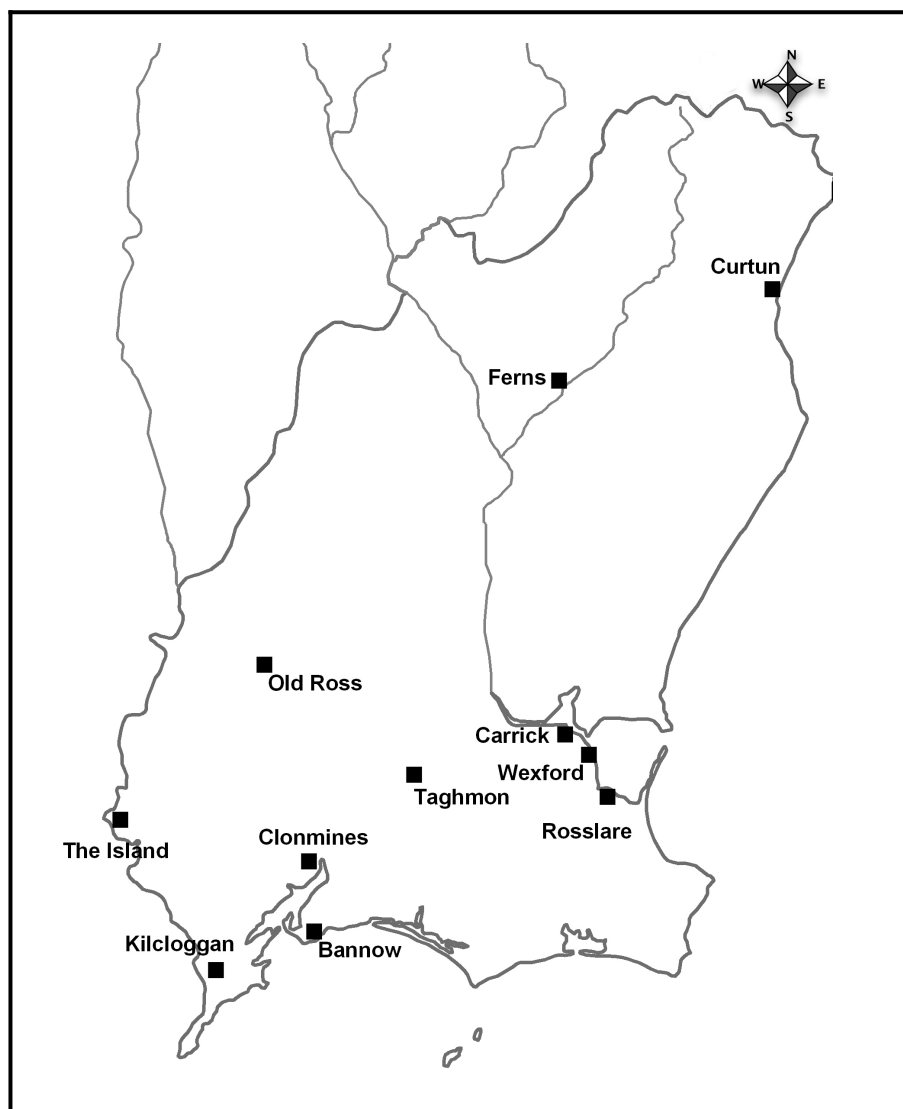


Figure 2 Manors in Wexford with surviving extents c. 1300

Many extents were drawn up at the behest of the king, particularly following the death of a tenant in chief. In Ireland, post mortem enquiries were set up in response to a royal writ sent to the escheator, the official in the central government of the lordship who had responsibility for administering lands in the king's hands. The records emanating from inquisitions of this type were kept in the Irish Chancery and most were destroyed in 1922 in the Four Courts' fire. But when, as was often the case, the deceased held lands in both England and Ireland, copies of the inquisitions on

the Irish lands were sent to the English chancery. These records have survived and extent information for over two hundred manors, substantial land-holdings and boroughs, throughout Ireland can be found in the collections of TNA. Among this total are the ten Wexford manors and boroughs shown in Figure 2. (See figure 2 on page 3) The Knights' Templar manor of Kilcloggan on the Hook peninsula is also included by virtue of a detailed manorial inventory drawn up in the early fourteenth century.⁶

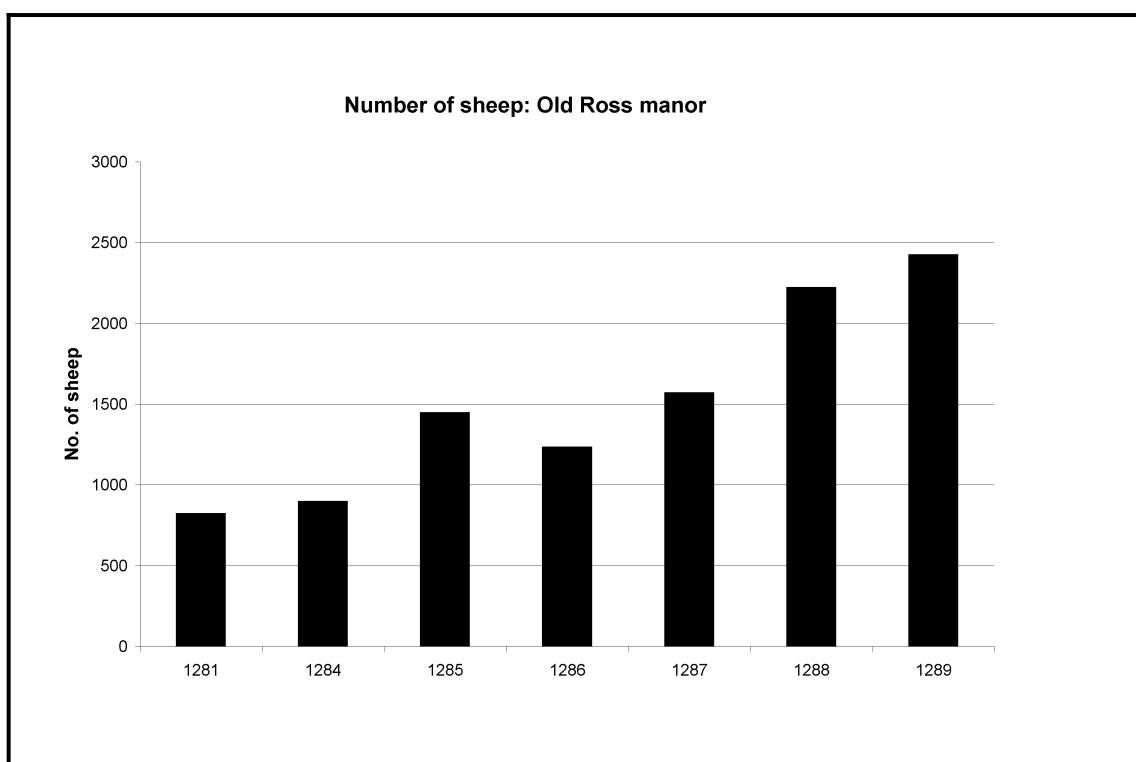


Figure 3 Number of sheep on the manor of Old Ross 1281–1289.

These documents provide a substantial amount of information on rural settlement and agriculture, although the extents do vary considerably with regard to the quantity and quality of information they contain. In addition to shedding light on land-use and land values at specific places, the data provided by a collection of extents can be used to build up a more general picture of agrarian exploitation and settlement features across a wider

area or region. This can then be compared with extent data for other regions.

For example it is possible to draw out some comparisons between the information provided by the Wexford extents with that compiled from an analysis recently undertaken on a collection of around forty extents for demesnes in the Dublin

⁶ The Latin text of this inquisition can be found in Gearóid Mac Niocaill, 'Documents on the suppression of the Templars in Ireland', *Analecta Hibernica*, 24 (1961), 183–226.

region at roughly the same period.⁷ The very pronounced dominance of arable over other land-uses which was a feature of demesnes in the Dublin region in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries does not appear to be replicated in Wexford, where arable and pastoral regimes were perhaps of equal importance and therefore more integrated. Mowable meadow land was scarce in Wexford and as a result even very small quantities are recorded and valued. When woodland is recorded in Wexford, it usually is just the pasture within the wood which is valued, rather than the timber or underwood. Rather surprisingly, warrens, which were relatively common in the Dublin extents, are absent from the Wexford descriptions. Virtually every Wexford extent contains reference to a turbary, however, which suggests that turf was a widely-used fuel in the county at this time.

With regard to buildings, the Wexford extents are in general less forthcoming than those for the Dublin region although this may be caused by the

smaller sample. The Dublin extents frequently mention buildings for storage of grain and sometimes grain-drying kilns. Granges, granaries and kilns do not appear in the surviving Wexford extents. Mills were plentiful, however, and the average value of two to three pounds was similar to the values encountered in the Dublin region.

Manorial Documents — annual accounts

A second category of manorial document comprises those records which describe the active management of manorial resources and rights and their financial returns over a period of time, normally a year. In terms of agriculture and settlement the most important manorial documents in this category are the demesne accounts concerned with the actual performance and financial yield of resources over the agricultural year (usually Michaelmas to Michaelmas). Old Ross, Co. Wexford is one of only a handful of Irish manors for which these valuable accounts survive.



Figure 4 Acres under different crops on the manor of Old Ross 1283–1288.

Old Ross, situated some six miles east of New Ross, had probably been a seigneurial centre from

⁷ This data was compiled as part of the Medieval Rural Settlement Project at the Discovery Programme, directed by Dr Niall Brady.

Strongbow's time and he may have built the motte which still survives. A stone castle was built during the thirteenth century but no trace now remains. The lands of the manor of Ross, including the extensive forest of Ross, were extended in a 1232 charter of Richard Marshal and appear to have corresponded substantially to the large parish of Ross.⁸ The demesne lands were concentrated around the caput and probably comprised the 1,000 acre townland of Old Ross which was recorded in 1640 by the Civil Survey.

In the 1247 partition of Leinster this manor was valued at over £72 — the highest individual valuation in the share of Matilda Marshall and among the most valuable properties across Leinster. Through Matilda the property, included in the lordship of Carlow, passed into the ownership of the Bigod earls of Norfolk and the surviving demesne accounts relate to the 1280s when the manor was in the hands of Roger (IV) Bigod.⁹ The individual accounts, particularly those printed by Hore, have already provided historians and archaeologists with a wealth of detail on topics such as buildings and structures, wages and farming practices. The value of the accounts can be further enhanced by isolating specific variables for analysis over the whole series. This allows us to chart movements and changes over the course of the decade of the 1280s.

The demesne accounts, supplemented by separate accounts rendered by the manorial shepherd show that the manor was a large centre for sheep rearing. Plotting the numbers of sheep present on the manor at the end of each accounting year reveals a steady rise in numbers throughout the

decade from 821 in 1281 to 2,423 in 1289. (See figure 3 on page 4) This rise was accompanied by a significant increase in manorial income from wool and cheese. The acreage sown with crops on the manorial demesne also increased over the decade as more land was acquired by clearance and purchase and converted to arable husbandry. (See figure 4 on page 5) The balance between the crops sown also changed over this period; oats remained the largest crop but more land was devoted to wheat, the most valuable and commercial grain. The acreage under wheat increased over four-fold in the period covered by the accounts.

Conclusion

It will never be possible to replicate for medieval Ireland those systematic studies of land use, crop yields and prices which are a notable feature of the medieval economic and agrarian history of England. Nevertheless, even with the great gaps in the surviving archive, it is feasible to adopt a slightly more quantitative methodology, accompanied, of course, by the caveat that the data presented is not what the statisticians would regard as robust. This approach has already been used by several historians and historical geographers; Mark Hennessy's work on medieval Tipperary being particularly relevant to the current discussion.¹⁰ The adoption of this approach to different parts of Ireland will, in time, contribute to a more nuanced economic history of the country and a better understanding of agriculture and rural settlement.

⁸ Colfer, *Arrogant trespass*, 117–8.

⁹ M. Murphy, 'The profits of lordship: Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk and the lordship of Carlow, 1270–1306' in L. Doran & J. Lyttleton (eds), *Lordship in medieval Ireland* (Dublin, 2007), 75–98.

¹⁰ See for example Mark Hennessy, 'Manorial agriculture and settlement in early-fourteenth-century Co. Tipperary' in H B Clarke, Jacinta Prunty and Mark Hennessy (eds), *Surveying Ireland's past: multidisciplinary essays in honour of Annagret Simms* (Dublin, 2004), 99–118.

Ardakillin Royal Centre

Brian Shanahan
Assistant Director
Medieval Rural Settlement Project
The Discovery Programme

A report on recent fieldwork carried out by the Discovery Programme at the royal centre of Ardakillin Co. Roscommon.

Introduction

The Discovery Programme's Medieval Rural Settlement Project has been investigating the O'Conor lordship in north Roscommon since 2002.¹ The project carried out another season of fieldwork in August 2008.² The work was carried out by Brian Shanahan and Rory McNeary, of the Discovery Programme, in conjunction with a team of surveyors and volunteers.³ This season allowed the project to utilise recently acquired geophysical survey equipment on a series of sites to great effect. This note will provide a brief overview of some of the work carried out at Ardakillin lough.

The north Roscommon module was designed to address rural settlement in the Gaelic lordship of the O'Conors c.1100–1650AD. Work to date has been based on mapping relict boundaries and settlements using aerial survey techniques. Detailed fieldwork has been carried out in the vicinity of the O'Conor inauguration site in Carns townland, near the village of Tulsk. This work included survey and excavation of a church site, deserted settlements and field system and has led to a relative chronology of settlement within the town-

land. In 2008 the project focused attention on a wider range of sites elsewhere in the study area. The environs of Ardakillin lough was the focus for one of these surveys because it was considered to be another prime example of a medieval lordship centre.

Ardakillin

Ardakillin lough was a documented royal centre of the O'Conors (*Uí Choncobair*) throughout the middle ages. Sites around the lake include the parish church of Killukin, six crannogs and a cluster of seven ringforts in Ardakillin townland (See plate 1 on page 8). The lake's historical importance was reaffirmed in the nineteenth century when a large number of artefacts were recovered in the aftermath of drainage works. The drainage works greatly reduced the extent of the lake; and the crannog sites, formerly in the lake shallows, became accessible to the local population. Medieval artefacts, which were recovered from the environs of the crannogs, were quickly dispersed to collectors. Some were acquired for the museum of the Royal Irish Academy and are now in the collection of the National Museum of Ireland.⁴ Other pieces have been identified in private collections abroad.⁵ These artefacts and those from other Roscommon lakes provided a remarkable insight into the material culture of early medieval royal households. Perishable objects of wood and bone had been preserved in addition to high status brooches, tools and weaponry. Upwards of fifty tons of animal bone was recovered from the environs of the principal crannog and was quickly disposed of by the locals for sale as fertiliser. Such a quantity reinforces the site's importance as a

¹ This is a multi-disciplinary project directed by Dr Niall Brady. The parameters of the study are set out in K.D. O'Conor, *The archaeology of medieval rural settlement in Ireland* (Dublin, 1998) and N. Brady, *Exploring Irish medieval landscapes: the Discovery Programme's Medieval Rural Settlement Project, 2002–2008* (Dublin, 2003); see also R. McNeary and B. Shanahan, 'Medieval settlement, society and land use in the Roscommon area: an introduction' in *Discovery Programme Reports 7: North Roscommon in the later medieval period: an introduction*. (Dublin, 2005), 3–22.

² A combination of fieldwork and excavation has been ongoing since 2003.

³ Cloonrane 08R216 directed by Rory McNeary; Ardakillin 08R217 and Killukin 08R218 directed by Brian Shanahan.

⁴ W.R. Wilde, *A descriptive catalogue of the antiquities in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy, Vol. 1 Articles of stone, earthen, vegetable and animal materials: and of copper and bronze*. (Dublin 1863).

⁵ Niamh Whitfield, 'A filigree panel and a coin from an Irish crannog at Alnwick castle, with an appendix on the discovery of crannogs at Strokestown, Co. Roscommon', *The Journal of Irish Archaeology*, 10 (2001), 49–72.

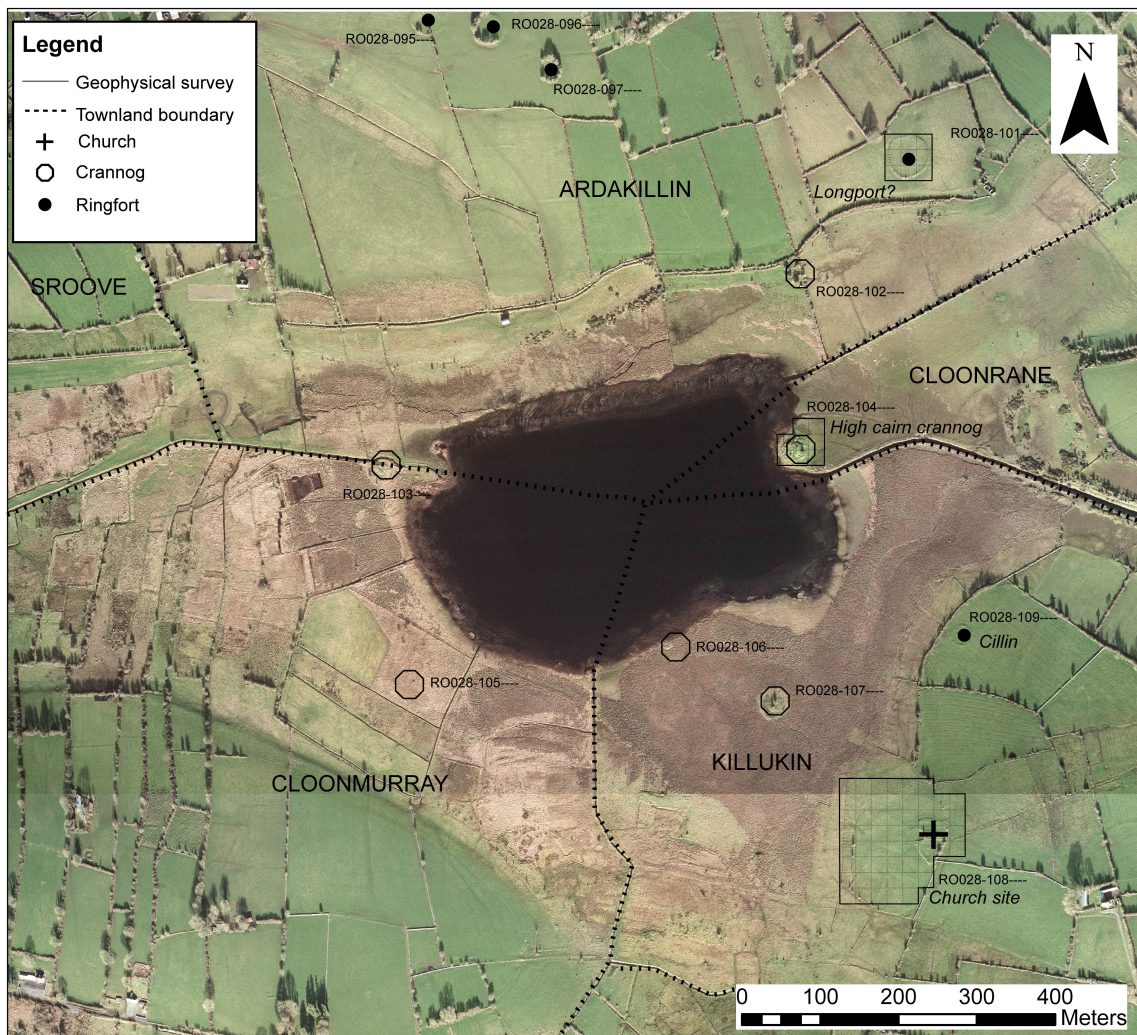


Plate 1 Aerial orthoimage of Ardakillin lough with main sites indicated

major centre of consumption. A broader picture of aristocratic feasting and entertainment is also suggested by finds of harp pegs. A more macabre side was revealed when a dugout canoe was exposed containing the skull of a young male and a pair of 'slave chains'. It seems more likely that the chains reflect the practice of royal hostage taking; effectively 'collateral' to secure agreements and good behaviour. The skull has the marks of up to twenty cuts.⁶

The principal crannog was of a high cairn type (RO028:104); essentially a large mound of stones (See plate 2 on page 9).⁷ Its prominent profile

appears to have attracted the attention of the drainage engineers who cut a channel through the mound. Luckily, they drew a section of the crannog, which provides an invaluable record of the structure prior to the decay of timber and other perishable elements (See plate 3 on page 9). Based on the drawing, the site appears to have had multiple phases and was occupied over a prolonged period. The early levels consisted of a low site with layers of ash and clay bounded by a palisade. The final phase resulted from the construction of a high mound of loose stone defined by a

⁶ W.G. Wood-Martin, *The lake dwellings of Ireland* (Dublin 1886), 237–8.

⁷ N. Brady and K. O'Connor, 'The later medieval usage of crannogs in Ireland', *Ruralia* 5 (2005), 127–36.



Plate 2 View of high cairn crannog and drained lake bed in the foreground, facing northwest

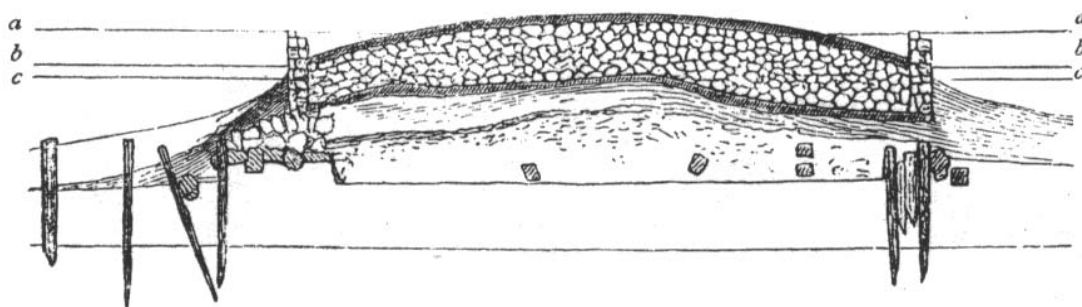


Plate 3 Drainage engineer's section of the high cairn crannog (reproduced in Wood-Martin 1886)

retaining wall on top of the earlier levels. The original height of the enclosing wall can only be speculated upon but it might be the foundations of a small cashel, or drystone walled enclosure. If so, this crannog is likely to be the site of the *caislén* of Loch Cairgín which in 1136 was 'plundered by the men of Teathbha' who 'slaughtered its people'.⁸ A series of fortifications called *cais-*

lén were mentioned in association with Toirdelbach Ua Concobhair, king of Connacht, and his son Ruadhrí during the first half of the twelfth century. There has been some speculation about the structure, nature and function of these *caislén* sites. The term was novel, so it would appear to represent something conceptually or physically different from other contemporary fortifica-

⁸ *Annals of Tigernach* 1136; *Annals of the Four Masters* 1136; Loch Cairgín was identified by John O'Donovan as Ardakillin lough.

tions such as the *dún*, and the *longphort*. An argument has been made that they were a type of castle.⁹ They could be influenced by the castles and other royal fortifications that were current in Britain and Europe and could therefore be seen to reflect the changing nature of Gaelic kingship in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Therefore, further investigations on the crannog could reveal much about this crucial period in the kingdom of Connacht.

The lake continued to be a centre of lordship because another reference in 1368 noted that Rory O'Connor (the O'Connor) had a house and fortress (*longphort*) at Ardakillin. This was presumably one of the ringforts occupying the high ground in Ardakillin townland, on the northern side of the lake. A reference in 1388 clarifies that Ardakillin was distinct from the island(s) of Loch Cairgín. Such a pairing of dryland site and crannog has other precedents such as the MacDermott centre of Lough Key which consisted of the fortified island and a *longphort* overlooking the shore.¹⁰ The high cairn crannog, generally known as Ardakillin (although it is now in Cloonrane townland) was examined in August 2008. It consists of a large uneven mound with a diameter of approximately 25m at the base which sits on a broader lower platform that has a diameter of approximately 40m. The drainage engineers' excavations are still evident as a trench that cuts through the centre of the mound in a north-south orientation. Loose stones abound around the base of the mound; these stones and a discrete low dump of stones to the north of the mound were most likely removed from the mound during the nineteenth-century excavations. Although the lake has been greatly reduced it still runs to the edge of the western side of the crannog and timber palisade posts are evident in the water on that side of the crannog. The former lake bed to the north and west of the crannog is now dry land and consists of a peaty



Plate 4 Surveying palisade posts using a Trimble 5700 differential GPS base and rover system

soil lying above lake marl. A drainage channel located on the southern side of the crannog connects Ardakillin lough to Cloonfinlough and is dredged at intervals in order to maintain the low lake levels.

The aim of the fieldwork was to make a detailed record of the surface of the crannog using a combination of GPS survey and laser scanning and to investigate sub-surface remains through non-invasive geophysical survey. The laser scan has resulted in a highly detailed three dimensional record of the site. The results have yet to be processed but the data gathered will be used to create a detailed Digital Terrain Model (DTM) of the site. The locations of the surviving palisade posts in the lake shallows on the western side of the crannog were also surveyed using differential GPS (See plate 4 on this page). Two types of geophysical survey — electrical resistance and magnetic gradiometry — were carried out on the mound and its immediate environs.¹¹ The current lake level constrained the survey to the immediate environs of the site on south, west and northwest sides. However, it was possible to sample the former lake bed to the east of the crannog. The re-

⁹ D. Ó Corráin, *Ireland before the Normans* (Dublin, 1972), 156 for distribution map; B. Graham, 'Timber and earthwork fortifications in western Ireland', *Medieval Archaeology* 32 (1988), 110–29; T. O'Keeffe, 'The fortifications of western Ireland, AD 1100–1300, and their interpretation', *The Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*, 50 (1998), 184–200.

¹⁰ *AFM* 1388; O'Connor notes that there was a *longphort* on the shore opposite MacDermott's island fortress at Lough Key. See *The Archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Ireland*, Discovery Programme Monograph 3, (Dublin, 1998).

¹¹ Electrical resistance involves passing an electrical current between probes and measuring the level of resistance to that current. By systematically recording the resistance across a measured grid it is possible to infer the presence of high resistance features such as walls and rubble and low resistance features such as pits. Magnetic gradiometry measures fluctuations in the earth's magnetic field at a given location. These variations can be influenced by the presence of pits, kilns, walls etc.

sistance survey has more clearly defined the outline of the retaining wall of the high cairn crannog and indicates that the site had a diameter of 20m (See plate 5 on this page). The highest responses on the magnetic gradiometry survey also corresponds to the extent of the high cairn crannog. However, lower uneven responses which extend beyond the cairn appear to correspond to the rough extent (c.40m) of the earlier crannog. They might also reflect dumping of debris and midden material from the high cairn crannog. The readings show little variation beyond the 40m extent, which would be consistent with a relatively undisturbed lakebed further from the crannog.

The survey also attempted to identify the site of the *longphort* fortification which is mentioned in a late fourteenth-century account.¹² The only potential sites for such a fortified enclosure are the ringforts in Ardakillin townland, which suggests that at least one of them was occupied well into the late middle ages. This raised the possibility of establishing the nature and structure of a late medieval Gaelic fortified residence and to investigate the extent to which it differed, if at all, from early medieval ringforts. A ringfort (R0028:101) on the north side of the lake was deemed a likely candidate because it is significantly larger than the other ringforts and because it is the closest to the lake shore overlooking the high cairn crannog. Such a configuration is reminiscent of the topography of another royal centre on the shore of Lough Ennell, County Westmeath, which was the seat of the *Clann Cholmáin* kings of the southern *Uí Néill* between the eighth and eleventh centuries AD. Their principle sites of *Dún-na-Sciath*, a raised ringfort, and the crannog of *Cró-Inis* are mentioned in historical sources.¹³ The ringfort at Ardakillin is substantial and is similar in some respects to a raised ringfort. It consists of a terrace or platform measuring c.48m in diameter, which was built onto the hillslope. As a result the site is more or less level with the ground on its northern side whereas it rises approximately 1.8m above the ground to the south. The enclosure is defined by a low bank, which is raised approximately (0.3m above the interior and is approxi-

mately 0.5m to 1.8m above the exterior). The site is not particularly defensive and would have required substantial palisades or other timber defences to make it so. Proximity to the lake shore and perhaps a clear view of the crannog seem to have been a primary consideration for choosing the location. Geophysical survey did not identify any structures or patterns that could indicate a particular date of occupation. Magnetic gradiometry revealed that the interior of the site had been disturbed by cultivation and was effectively reused as a garden, presumably by the occupants of a ruined farmhouse that is located 50m to the east. The interior is traversed by cultivation ridges. It seems that only excavation would definitively establish if this is the site of the O'Connor *longphort*.

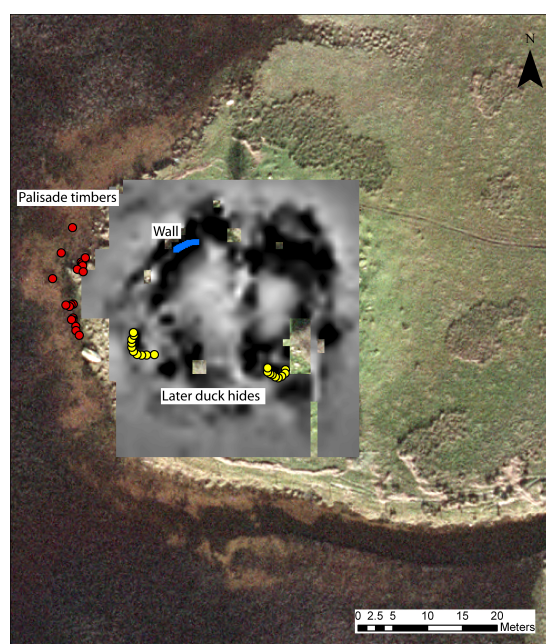


Plate 5 Electrical resistance survey of high cairn crannog with additional features indicated

Geophysical survey was also carried out at the parish church site (R0028:108), which is located in Killukin townland, on the eastern side of the lake. The survey was intended to provide a record of the standing remains of the church building and

¹² *AFM* 1388.

¹³ A. O'Sullivan, 'Exploring peoples' past interactions with wetland environments in Ireland', *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, 107c (2007), 147–203 at 166–7.

to investigate if the church was the focus of a larger settlement. The west gable wall (c.3m high) and the foundations of a church building survive. Little remains of the church, although most of the west gable wall survives and the plan of the rest of the building can be traced as grassed-over foundations. It measures c.18m east-west and c.8.5m north-south. The building appears to be medieval, although there are no diagnostic architectural fragments to indicate a more precise date. An enclosure and a series of terraces between the church and the lake were initially identified by visual inspection and were subsequently mapped using a combination of aerial orthoimagery and geophysical survey. The site appears to have been defined by an oval enclosure c.200m N-S and 150m E-W, which was subdivided into smaller enclosures by a series of terraces and ditches (which have been filled in). Discrete areas of higher resistance suggest areas of stone or compacted earth possibly relating to buildings or working surfaces within the enclosures. Chronologies and precise relationships between the various components are uncertain and could only be established through systematic excavation. Nonetheless the survey indicates the presence of an extensive site, which must have had a settlement component. This pattern is mirrored at other church sites nearby, such as Carns and Kilcooly, which the project has already investigated.

The magnetic gradiometry survey also revealed groups of cultivation ridges that cut across the site and the earlier terraces (See plate 6 on page 13). There has been no cultivation there within living memory and they probably relate to two pre-famine settlement clusters that are indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map.¹⁴ They indicate the pressures of a rising population and that the extent of what was considered to be 'sacred' or belonging to the church site had been reduced to a small sub-rectangular area around the church. There is no obvious evidence for recent burial around the church, although approx-

imately 200m north of the church site is a small earthen enclosure (R0028:109), which local tradition suggests was used as a *cillín*, or a burial place for unbaptised infants or strangers.¹⁵ Such marginal groups were not usually entitled to be buried in consecrated ground. A *cillín* allowed rural communities to bury their marginalized dead in places which could have some assumed link with the past. The Killukin *cillín* fulfilled such criteria because internment took place within an earlier earthwork, perhaps a ringfort, which was nonetheless close to the old church site.

Conclusions

The survey work undertaken at Ardakillin has provided many insights into the nature and extent of some of the monuments around the lake. However it has merely highlighted the potential of this lake for future archaeological research.¹⁶ Additional survey could be undertaken on the sites discussed above and there are also many other elements within the townland that would repay investigation. For example, there are sites of two pre-famine-era settlements indicated on the first edition Ordnance survey maps to the east and southeast of the church. The origins of these settlements can be traced back to the mid-eighteenth century at least but little else is known about them.¹⁷ The ongoing mapping is beginning to reveal the topography of a medieval lordly centre. The next step will involve consideration of the relationships between the individual monuments and the land units surrounding the shore.

¹⁴ *Ordnance Survey Roscommon*, First Edition, sheet 28, 1838; Information from landowner Mr. Jackie Devine, Killukin.

¹⁵ Information provided by Jackie Devine, Killukin.

¹⁶ For comparative studies see Robert T. Farrell, Eamonn P. Kelly, and Margaret Gowan, 'The Crannog Archaeological Project (CAP), Republic of Ireland I: A pre-preliminary report', *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 18 (1989), 123-136; O'Sullivan, A., Sands, R. and Kelly, E.P., *Coolure Demesne crannog, Lough Derravaragh, Co. Westmeath: a crannog and its landscapes* (Bray: Wordwell, 2007).

¹⁷ Marie-Louise Legg (ed.), *The Census of Elphin 1749* (Dublin, 2004).

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vey work was only possible due to our dedicated team of volunteers Mike Croghan, Jennifer Davitt, Richard and Betty Grey, Seamus McGinlay and Aidan McGuinness; also thanks to Lora O'Brien and the staff of the Cruachan Aí centre in Tusk and the landowners who allowed access to the sites and particularly Jackie Devine who provided invaluable local information.



Plate 6 Magnetic gradiometry plot of Killukin church site

Notices of Recently Published Books

Bernadette Cunningham

An atlas for Celtic studies: archaeology and names in ancient Europe and Early Medieval Ireland, Britain, and Brittany

John Koch, in collaboration with Raimund Karl, Antoine Minard, Simon Ó Faoláin
(Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2007, viii, 215pp, ills. ISBN 9781842173091, £50)

Detailed maps are used to present a great variety of disparate archaeological and linguistic evidence concerning the early Celtic-speaking peoples in Europe, mapping place-names, group-names, Celtic inscriptions and other linguistic evidence. Drawing on a major research project on Celticity carried out since 1999 at the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, the maps attempt to depict the available information about past cultural developments in a geographical context. Given the nature of the data, interpretation is a matter for the specialist rather than the general reader. The emphasis is on the period c. 800 BC to c. 800 AD, and the maps are accompanied by explanatory text and theoretical discussion. A compact disc containing ArcView data files of the research team's plottings can also be ordered from the publishers, as an aid to further research.

Temples of stone: exploring the megalithic tombs of Ireland

Carleton Jones
(Cork: Collins Press, 2007, xii, 334pp. ISBN 9781905172054, Hbk, €27.95)

Drawing on the excavations and researches of a wide range of archaeologists on the key megalithic sites in Ireland, this work of synthesis discusses the belief systems and rituals of those who constructed and used them. It evokes the tribal world within which Stone Age farmers not only worked and defended their territory but also strove to comprehend issues of life and death. A gazetteer of the best-known megalithic sites in Ireland is included, together with a series of location maps in colour.

Newgrange

Geraldine Stout and Matthew Stout
(Cork: Cork University Press, 2008, vi, 122pp, ills. ISBN 9781859184318, Pbk, €19.95)

This illustrated book provides a popular yet authoritative account of Ireland's best known Neolithic passage tomb. The authors present a synthesis of the findings of decades of excavation and research, drawing on M.J. O'Kelly's excavation reports as well as more recent and as yet unpublished excavations. The current academic debate about the construction and reconstruction of the site is also elucidated. The Newgrange site is placed in its broader European context to allow the reader to understand its significance in world prehistory.

Dún Ailinne: excavations at an Irish royal site, 1968–1975

Susan A. Johnston and Bernard Wailes
(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Publications, 2007, xxix, 232pp, with CDROM. ISBN 9781931707992, \$100)

Dún Ailinne lies just south of Kilcullen, Co. Kildare, and is known locally as Knockaulin Hill. It was identified by John O'Donovan in 1838 as the place known historically as the royal centre of Leinster. A substantial excavation was undertaken by researchers from the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania between 1968 and 1975, partly funded by the National Monuments branch of the Office of Public Works in Ireland. The results support the identification of the hill as a royal site, used for ceremonial and ritual purposes but not for burials. Comparisons are drawn with findings at other identified royal sites at Rathcroghan, Tara and Navan Fort.

Landscapes, documents and maps: villages in northern England and beyond, AD 900–1250

Brian K. Roberts
(Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2008, xvi, 336pp, ills. ISBN 9781842172377, Hbk, £48)

As a cross-disciplinary enquiry into the nature of rural settlement in England this book integrates materials from geography, history, economic history, archaeology, place-name studies, anthropology and even church architecture. Underlying all of these is an engagement with landscape studies. The landed estates within which planned or informal village settlements developed and the farming and social systems of which they were a part are explored. Land holding arrangements are traced, since these reflected the methods adopted in sharing out the agricultural resources of arable, meadow, woodland and commonage.

Environmental archaeology in Ireland

Edited by Eileen M. Murphy and Nicki J. Whitehouse
(Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2007, xxii, 305pp. ISBN 9781842172742, Pbk, £40)

Sixteen commissioned essays are published here to provide an introduction to the techniques and methodologies of environmental archaeology in Ireland. Intended as a handbook for students and professional archaeologists, specialist topics treated include radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, palaeoentomology, human osteoarchaeology, palynology and geoarchaeology. The closing chapter deals with heritage legislation in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Inishmurray: monks and pilgrims in an Atlantic landscape. Volume 1: Archaeological Survey and Excavations, 1997–2000

Jerry O'Sullivan and Tomás Ó Carragáin
(Cork: The Collins Press, 2008, xxii, 406pp, ills. ISBN 9781905172474, Hbk, €49.95)

The ecclesiastical landscape of Inishmurray, an island 7km off the Sligo coast, is both complex and well-preserved. The archaeological monuments on the island are 'among the best preserved examples of early medieval ecclesiastical architecture in Atlantic Europe'. This was a substantial monastic settlement, established towards the end of the first millennium. It was an important pilgrimage site, and it continued to have an ecclesiastical function down to the seventeenth century and beyond. A comprehensive new survey and a series of archaeological investigations of the monastic settlement on the island of Inishmurray are reported in detail in this well-illustrated book. The interpretation of the findings places particular emphasis on the site as pilgrimage destination, focused on the shrine chapel of St Molaise and the leachta that are the key element of the modern pilgrimage, but notes that Inishmurray was primarily a monastic settlement, with the pilgrimage a secondary aspect of the site. The research was commissioned by Dúchas, the Heritage Service, and survey and excavation work commenced in 1997. A companion volume on the ecclesiastical landscape of Inishmurray is planned.

Excavations at Knowth 4: Historical Knowth and its hinterland

Francis John Byrne, William Jenkins, Gillian Kenny and Catherine Swift, with an introduction by George Eogan

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy for the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Royal Irish Academy, 2008, xxxi, 321pp. ISBN 9781904890300, Hbk, €35)

This volume on Knowth and the wider Brugh na Bóinne area in the historical period contains essays by Catherine Swift (with contributions by Francis John Byrne) on 'The early history of Knowth'; Gillian Kenny on 'Late Medieval Brugh na Bóinne, 1142–1541', and William Jenkins on 'Settlement, society and landscape in Brugh na Bóinne since the mid-sixteenth century'. Analysis of the region's settlement history confirms Knowth as the royal residence of the kings of north Brega by the eighth century. The book goes on to trace the later history of the site, encompassing the Cistercian foundation at Mellifont in 1142; the Anglo-Norman settlement of the wider region from the twelfth century; the changes in settlement patterns that followed the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century; the establishment of Protestant landownership; the impact of the late nineteenth-century Land Acts; the work of the Land Commission; and the modernization of the farming landscape in the latter half of the twentieth century. It thus takes the story of the settlement of this significant archaeological landscape right down to the late twentieth century.

The Vikings in Ireland: settlement, trade and urbanization.

Mary A. Valante

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 216pp, ills. ISBN 9781846820939, Hbk €45)

From the ninth to the eleventh centuries, Viking raiders and their descendants settled in and urbanized Ireland, connecting the Irish to long-distance trade routes. This book uses anthropological and geographical methods to evaluate the economic impact of Viking urbanization in Ireland, illustrating the complex trading relationship between the Scandinavian settlers in the towns and the Irish inhabitants of the rural hinterland.

Ardferd cathedral: summary of excavation results
Fionnbarr Moore

(Dublin: Stationery Office, 2007, 122pp, ills. ISBN 0755775775, Pbk, €10)

A programme of archaeological excavations and building conservation was undertaken at the cathedral in the village of Ardferd, Co. Kerry, between 1989 and 1998. The excavations revealed the plan of the stone church first mentioned in the Annals of Inisfallen in AD 1046. This attractive, illustrated booklet presents an accessible summary of the excavation findings. Extensive restoration work was undertaken on the cathedral building, and further conservation work and research into the excavation findings are planned.

The Priory of Llanthony Prima and Secunda in Ireland, 1172–1541: lands, patronage and politics

Arlene Hogan

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 432pp. ISBN 9781846820885, €75)

Llanthony Priory in Wales was the beneficiary of the tithes of the extensive Irish estate granted to Hugh De Lacy by Henry II in 1172. The lordship of Meath covered the modern counties of Meath and Westmeath, with parts of Longford and Offaly. The evidence of the Llanthony charters are used here to trace the history of the settlement of the Irish estates of the Augustinian canons of Llanthony, not only in the initial phase of colonization, but also in ensuing centuries down to the dissolution of the monasteries in 1530s. The charters, previously published in Latin in 1953 in an Irish Manuscripts Commission edition by Eric St John Brooks, are printed in English translation as appendices to this volume.

The Gaelic clans of Co. Clare and their territories, 1100–1700 A.D.

Patrick Nugent

(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2007, viii, 312pp. ISBN 9780906602331, €30)

Theories of societal evolution expounded by R.A. Dodgson, R.D. Sack and others are here applied to the study of territorial hierarchies in medieval Thomond. The author begins with a general theoretical discussion of territory and territoriality, proceeding to a detailed analysis of the landscape of County Clare in the late medieval period. The evolution of the *túath*, parish, and other territorial divisions are discussed, concluding with an assessment of the nature of territorial and social organization in County Clare in the seventeenth century. The book includes a wide range of informative analytical maps, but a strong editorial hand should have been applied to the often challenging prose text prior to publication.

The Irish Annals: their genesis, evolution and history
Daniel P. Mc Carthy
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, xvi, 416pp. ISBN 9781846820489, Hbk, €85)

This wide-ranging book surveys the extant manuscripts of all the major annals known from medieval Ireland, and offers new interpretations of these crucial texts. Many of the accepted hypotheses about the medieval Irish annals are systematically challenged, and alternative interpretations are offered regarding the methodologies of the chroniclers and the interrelationships between the various annals. Mc Carthy pays special attention to the dating systems used by the chroniclers and scribes and highlights the shortcomings of the printed editions of the various annals in this regard. Sources such as the Annals of Ulster have long been central to research on the medieval Gaelic world, but Mc Carthy rejects aspects of the chronology of these annals as established by their nineteenth-century editors. His arguments also undermine the entire 'Chronicle of Ireland' hypothesis, much in favour among early medievalists since the 1970s.

Medieval Ireland: territorial, political and economic divisions
Paul MacCotter
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 320pp. ISBN 9781846820984, Hbk, €55)

This is a particularly important book for historians of medieval settlement in Ireland. MacCotter focusses on the *trícha cét*, a Gaelic territorial unit current in Ireland in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. Drawing on a variety of sources of Anglo-Norman origin to identify the cantreds that succeeded the *trícha cét* throughout Ireland, and then working through Gaelic sources to supplement that information, MacCotter has compiled a comprehensive gazetteer, county by county, of the cantreds, *trícha céts* and local kingdoms of Ireland. The data is then mapped to create a comprehensive picture of the local territorial divisions in Ireland c. AD 1200. In the few instances where territorial boundaries are still speculative, the evidence is discussed in accompanying notes. Other local elements of the system, the *túath*, the *baile biataig*, the parish and the rural deanery are also contextualised. The gazetteer and atlas delineate precisely the local administrative divisions of Anglo-Norman Ireland, and also provide a clear window into the regional territorial divisions — and from that the economic and socio-political system — of pre-Norman Gaelic Ireland.

Medieval Dublin VIII: proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium 2006
Edited by Seán Duffy
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 328pp, ills. ISBN 9781846820427, Hbk, €50. ISBN 9781846820434, Pbk, €24.95)

This volume contains the proceedings of the eighth annual public symposium hosted by the Friends of Medieval Dublin, together with some additional essays. Teresa Bolger presents an analysis of the environmental history of medieval county Dublin, drawing particularly on the evidence of Archbishop Alen's register; Nessa Walsh examines pre-Romanesque churches in Dublin's hinterland; Myles and

Michael Gibbons re-evaluate purported *longphort* sites, and R. Andrew McDonald discusses Dublin-Manx relations in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. There are three themed papers on Dublin and the medieval chronicle tradition. Alan Fletcher discusses the city's Latin annals, Raymond Gillespie assesses the significance of the 'Dublin City Chronicle' and Bernadette Cunningham examines the portrayal of Dublin in the late-medieval Gaelic annals. There are reports on three archaeological excavations in Dublin city and county, Viking-Age burials at Golden Lane, excavated by Edmond O'Donovan, an exploration of the medieval city wall and defences by Linzi Simpson, and a site near the Anglo-Norman Merrion castle excavated by Christine Baker.

Irish walled towns
John Givens
(Dublin: Liffey Press, 2008, x, 270pp, ills. ISBN 9781905785261, €29.95)

This book provides an illustrated historical introduction to each of the twenty towns in the Irish Walled Towns Network, an initiative of the Heritage Council. The shape of each medieval town is recorded on an illustrated map that indicates the location of existing walls, gates, mural towers, castles and other features. The maps also show the original wall lines and the sites of other lost structures. The material is well presented with time-lines, maps and photographs, but there is a vagueness about the sources of the material used since there are no endnotes, and just a very cursory bibliography. In the case of the chapter on Waterford, for example, we can assume some input by Eamonn McEneaney who is thanked in the author's acknowledgements for 'his fine essay on Waterford', but whether that refers to the essay in this volume or another essay altogether is not specified anywhere in this book. The index and the captions to illustrations (even when read in conjunction with the picture credits) are also decidedly skimpy, sometimes lacking in essential identifications. As a general introduction to the walled towns of Ireland for the non-specialist, however, this is an attractive offering.

From ringforts to fortified houses: studies on castles and other monuments in honour of David Sweetman
Edited by Conleth Manning
(Dublin: WordWell, 2007, xxxii, 432pp. ISBN 9781905569168, Hbk, €60)

Twenty-nine essays on medieval archaeology are assembled in this volume, in honour of David Sweetman's contribution to Irish archaeology and his promotion of research on the history of castles and other monuments in Ireland. Among the specific case studies included are essays on the castles at Castlerahan, Wexford, Lissardowlan, Adare, Dunalong, Ballingarry, Hartwell, Maghernacloy Bremore, and Listowel. Other essays discuss ringforts, churches and a variety of theoretical aspects of medieval monuments in Ireland.

Clare history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county
Edited by Matthew Lynch and Patrick Nugent; series editor William Nolan.
(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2008, xxxv, 789pp.

ISBN 9780906602393, Hbk, €60)

Among the twenty-eight essays in this compilation there is a particular emphasis on the history of County Clare in the nineteenth century, with essays on various aspects of culture, folklore, sport and recreation, as well as the more predictable topics of famine, emigration, religion and local politics. Among the essays on earlier centuries, those of particular interest to settlement historians include David Nally on 'Maintaining the Marches: seigneur, sept and settlement in Anglo-Norman Thomond', Patrick Nugent on 'The interrelationship between population and settlement in county Clare in the seventeenth century: the evidence from the 1659 "census"', and Brian Ó Dálaigh's original and important essay on 'A history of urban origins and village formation in County Clare'.

Carlow history and society: interdisciplinary essays on the history of an Irish county

Edited by Thomas McGrath; series editor William Nolan.

(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2008, xxvi, 1070pp, ills. ISBN 9780906602386, Hbk, €60)

Michael Conry's essay, 'The personality of Carlow: landscape and people' opens this substantial collection of essays, which boasts ten medieval essays, a third of the book. There are also case studies on the evolution of individual towns, notably New Leighlin, Tullow, Bagenalstown, and Carlow town itself. Of particular interest to settlement historians may be Linda Doran's essay on 'Medieval settlement hierarchy in Carlow and the "Carlow Corridor", 1200-1550', Margaret Murphy on 'Tullow: from medieval manor to market town', Kevin Down on 'Agriculture and the manorial economy in county Carlow in the late thirteenth century', William Nolan's 'County Carlow, 1641-1660: geography, landownership and society', and R. Timothy Campbell and Stephen A. Royle's 'The country house and its demesne in County Carlow'. The volume is selectively illustrated and many of the illustrations are in colour.

New Ross, Rossponte, Ros Mhic Treóin: an anthology celebrating 800 years

Edited and introduced by Tom Dunne

(Ardcavan, Co. Wexford: Wexford County Council Public Library Service, 2007, xii, 459pp, ills. ISBN 9780955146763, €35)

This illustrated anthology of the history of New Ross contains a selection of the writings of chroniclers and historians, generally arranged chronologically. Though not clear from the contents page, the compilation includes new research by a range of authors published here for the first time, in addition to reprints of older material. Among the new contributions are essays by L.M. Cullen on 'The port of New Ross: a comparative historical profile', Linda Doran on 'New Ross in maps', Bríd McGrath on 'Women in New Ross, 1635', and John Swain, 'A railway station for New Ross, 1887-1997'.

Lough Ree and its islands

Sean Cahill, Gearoid O'Brien and Jimmy Casey

(Athlone: Three Counties Press, 2006, xii, 372pp, ills.,

8 pls. ISBN 97809955412004, Hbk, €25)

This book by three local historians traces the history of Lough Ree on the Shannon and its islands, from mythological times down to the twentieth century. The first seventeen chapters survey the history and environment of the lake and its hinterland in broadly chronological fashion, while the second half of the book is devoted to a series of essays on the individual islands dotted around the lake. The authors' concern for the preservation of this distinctive historical landscape emerges clearly from the descriptions presented.

Connemara: the last pool of darkness

Tim Robinson

(Dublin: Penguin Ireland, 2008, viii, 373pp. ISBN 9781844881550, Hbk, €20)

The second volume in a trilogy on Connemara, this book maps and describes the landscape of north-west Connemara, the hills, fiords, coastline and islands. Ranging from prehistory to the present, the book brings a distinctive landscape and its people vividly to life.

Heritage landscapes of the Irish midlands, and selected itineraries

P.J. Gibson

(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2007, 252pp, ills. ISBN 9780906602287, Pbk, €25)

Three aspects of the heritage of the Irish midlands are considered in this book: the physical landscape, the archaeological landscape and the historical landscape. The region covered encompasses counties Laois, Offaly and Westmeath together with portions of adjoining counties, stretching from Killaloe in the south-west to Kells in the north-east. The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs and maps, and is designed for the general reader. The final third of the book describes nine itineraries, covering approximately 1,000 km in all, taking the visitor on a series of comprehensive tours of the region. Certainly a book to be savoured by all participants of GSIHS conference field-trips.

The post-medieval archaeology of Ireland, 1550-1850

Edited by Audrey Horning, Ruairí Ó Baoill, Colm Donnelly and Paul Logue (Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group Proceedings, 1)

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2007, xx, 484pp, ills. ISBN 9781905569137, Pbk, €70)

The expansion of research in Irish historical archaeology, with an emphasis on the period 1550 to 1750, but now tending to take an interest in later centuries also, is part of a broader international trend. This substantial publication, containing 28 essays, is derived from the 2001 inaugural conference of the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group. Part one, 'Of time, place and landscape', contextualises the development of post-medieval archaeology through essays on the archaeology of urban settlements at Dublin, Belfast, Carrickfergus, Galway, Cork, Derry and Limerick; the archaeology and historiography of the Munster and Ulster plantations; and the role of archaeology in interpreting rural, maritime and riverine landscapes. Part two, 'Of process and product' deals with material culture and post medieval archaeological data relating to ceramics, glass, coins, tobacco pipes, textiles

and firearms. Churches, gardens and domestic architecture are also discussed. The volume succeeds admirably in raising awareness of the significance of the research currently being undertaken.

Dublin, part II, 1610 to 1756. Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 19

Colm Lennon

Edited by Anngret Simms, H.B. Clarke, Raymond Gillespie and Jacinta Prunty. (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2008, 40pp, ills., 17 maps, 11 pls., with CDROM. ISBN 9781904890447, Pbk, €35)

This is the second fascicle of a projected multi-part historical atlas of Dublin. It contains a short essay on the evolution of early modern Dublin, followed by detailed listings of topographical information under a series of standard headings: name, legal status, parliamentary status, proprietary status, municipal boundary, administrative location, administrative divisions, population, housing, streets, religion, defence, administration, primary production, manufacturing, trades and services, transport, utilities, health, education, entertainment, memorials and societies, and residence. A large-scale reconstruction map of Dublin in 1846–7 is included, together with a map showing the evolution of the city from 1610 to 1756. Excellent reprints of the known major maps of the city produced during the period covered by this atlas are also included, not least Brooking's map of 1728 and Rocque's map of 1756, both reproduced in large format. An innovation in this fascicle is the accompanying CDROM containing digital versions of the atlas material.

Migration in Irish history, 1607–2007

Patrick Fitzgerald and Brian Lambkin

(Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, xx, 403pp. ISBN 9780333962411 Hbk, €60, ISBN 9780230222564 Pbk, €18.99)

Surveying Irish migration over four centuries, this book traces how Ireland, since the Flight of the earls (1607) and the Plantation of Ulster, developed as a site of diaspora for the peoples of Britain and the rest of the world, and how the countries of the rest of the world developed as sites of diaspora for the peoples of Ireland. The experience of individual migrants is used to examine the dynamic relationship between Ireland and its immigrants, internal migrants, emigrants, and returned migrants. The book is the outcome of research facilitated by the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone.

Border heritage: tracing the heritage of the City of Armagh and Monaghan County

Edited by Mark E. Bailey

(Norwich: TSO (The Stationery Office), 2008, xxii, 285pp. ISBN 9780337090110, Pbk, npp)

Designed to support heritage tourism, this illustrated book provides an accessible introduction to the heritage of the border region centred on Armagh city. The bulk of the book is devoted to Armagh city with a special emphasis on the uniquely important Observatory, a not-to-be-missed highlight of any visit to the region. A short essay by Shirley Clerkin on Monaghan County concludes the volume.

A tour in Ireland in 1775, by Richard Twiss

Edited by Rachel Finnegan

(Dublin: UCD Press, 2008, xlv, 144pp. ISBN 9781904558903, Pbk, €24)

Visitors to Ireland who published accounts of their travels may not have been neutral observers but they nonetheless provide an insightful snapshot of the world they encountered. Twiss's book, first published in 1776 with a London imprint, was controversial at the time. Its uncomplimentary representation of Ireland and its inhabitants caused offence, inspiring some to criticise the work in verse. This new edition is accompanied by an informative introduction by Rachel Finnegan on Twiss's life, on the publication of his *Tour* and on the controversy that surrounded it. Extracts from four contemporary poems critical of the book are also printed here.

The Wicklow military road: history and topography

Michael Fewer

(Dublin: Ashfield Press, 2007, 216pp, ills. ISBN 9781901658668, Pbk, €20)

Roads are an important part of our developed landscape. This book examines the history of the Wicklow military road, built 200 years ago, and stretching from Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin to Aghavannagh, Co. Wicklow. The topography and local history of the areas through which the road passes are explored in this well-illustrated guidebook.

Overlooking the river Mourne: four centuries of family farms in Edmore and Cavanalee in County Tyrone

Michael Cox

(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2006, xvii, 157pp, ills. ISBN 9781903688441, Pbk, £11.99)

Drawing on the rich resource of the Abercorn Papers in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, this is a local study of farms and farming families in hilly terrain on two adjoining townlands in Co. Tyrone. It provides an in-depth view of farming life in the centuries since the Plantation of Ulster, documenting the changes over time with a particular emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. An appendix provides a guide to researching local history of rural townlands, with a discussion of the principal categories of sources available.

The Shannon navigation.

Ruth Delaney

(Dublin: Lilliput Press, in association with Waterways Ireland, 2008, ix, 295pp. ISBN 9781843511328, €60; 9781843511281, Pbk, €29.95)

This book tells the story of the Shannon navigation from the mid-seventeenth century through to the 1750s when the Commissioners of Inland Navigation first commenced work, and on to the present day. This lavishly illustrated book allows the reader to form a picture of what the river was like at any given time or place, and also casts light on the living conditions of the people in its immediate hinterland, who used the river for their livelihoods and for relaxation.

Improving Ireland: projectors, prophets and profiteers, 1641–1786

Toby Barnard

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 192pp, 8 pls. ISBN 9781846820557, €55)

Two strands of the idea of improvement, physical changes through different kinds of agriculture, new industries, and even new settlers; and changes in attitude, through the introduction of new ideas in religion and other cultural spheres, had their ardent advocates in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Ireland. Aspects of the 'improving' worlds of Sir William Petty, Richard Lawrence, Samuel Hartlib, Walter Harris, Roderic O'Flaherty, the Percevals in Co. Cork, the Frenches in Co. Galway and the Smythes in Co. Westmeath are explored in a series of interlinked essays.

A history of Irish farming, 1750–1950

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 344pp, ills., 8 pls. ISBN 978 1846820960, €40)

The ways in which changing methods of livestock and crop production shaped rural society and the Irish landscape in the centuries since 1750 are analysed in this volume. The practicalities of Irish farming have long been a subject of research by staff at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and this volume is a synthesis of that research. The authors show that while agricultural improvers stimulated the development of new farming techniques, at the level of small farm production many much older techniques persisted, possibly from prehistoric times. Modern fieldwork shows that such techniques were appropriate to the environment in which they were used, and were remarkable for their refinement and effectiveness.

Georgian Dublin.

Edited by Gillian O'Brien and Finola O'Kane

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 203pp. ISBN 9781846821226, €50)

Fifteen essays on aspects of the social, political, cultural and commercial life of Dublin in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are published in this volume, which originated in a conference — 'Bare bones of a fanlight: Georgian Dublin' — held in Dublin in May 2006. The essays look beyond the architectural facade of the Georgian city to the lives and ideas that lay behind them, the changes brought by political change and economic uncertainties, and the representation of those worlds in literature and art.

The story of Woodstock in Inistioge: the fascinating history of a great Kilkenny estate and the restoration of its magnificent gardens

Thomas J. Whyte

(Shankill, Co. Dublin: Cappagh Press, 2007, 365pp, ills. ISBN 97809556029, Pbk, €21.95)

The building of the big house at Woodstock, commissioned by Sir William Fownes in 1737, and the subsequent development of the estate landscape provide the background for a lively account of the adventures of the Tighe family of Woodstock over several centuries. The estate gardens have now been restored in partnership with Kilkenny County Council, and the final section of the book describes the work of restoration in recent years. The gardens are now open to the public.

Land and landscape in nineteenth-century Ireland

Edited by Úna Ní Bhroiméil and Glenn Hooper

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2008, 198pp, Hbk, 9781846820656, €55)

Published in association with the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland, the essays in this collection address themes relating to the human interaction with land and the symbolism of land and landscape in nineteenth-century discourse. There are essays by Francesca Benatti, Maura Cronin, Laura Dabundo, Susan Egenolf, Irene Furlong, Andrew J. Garavel, Siobhán Jones, William H. Mulligan Jr, James H. Murphy, Máirín Ní Cheallaigh, Mary S. Pierse, Oonagh Walsh and Toni Wein. The book looks beyond the economics of land in the nineteenth century to 'the reality and the actuality of that which surrounded and encompassed its inhabitants. What is conveyed above all through making visible these locations is the importance of place, of a sense of place, of rootedness and of the assertion of nationality, of identity.'

Antiquarians and archaeology in nineteenth-century Cork

Joan Rockley

(BAR, British Series, 454) (Oxford: Archaeopress, 2008, xi, 181pp. ISBN 9781407302508, Pbk, £34)

The intellectual, cultural and scientific framework that existed in the Cork region, leading to the development of a rich seam of antiquarianism and archaeological thought in the nineteenth century is explored in this study. The researches of John Windele, Matthew Horgan, William Hackett, Richard Caulfield, Robert Day and Thomas Crofton Croker are among those given particular attention. An appendix gives biographical details of 100 nineteenth-century antiquarian scholars who actively pursued their interest in the Irish past. The activities of the Royal Cork Institution and related learned societies are also considered.

When the potato failed: causes and effects of the last European subsistence crisis, 1845–1850

Edited by Cormac Ó Gráda, Richard Paping and Eric Vanhaute

(Turnhout, Brepols, 2007, 342pp. ISBN 9782503519852, Pbk, €66.)

Research on the consequences of widespread crop-failure in mid nineteenth-century Ireland is synthesised here, and is presented alongside research on similar phenomena in other European countries. When seen in comparative international perspective, the experience of famine in nineteenth-century Ireland was indeed exceptional, as was the continued population decline in the country through the second half of the century. These essays in comparative economic history, the proceedings of a conference held in Dublin in December 2003, offer pointers as to why this was so.

Unearthing hidden Ireland: historical archaeology at Ballykilcline, County Roscommon.

Edited by Charles E. Orser Jr

(Bray, Co. Wicklow: Wordwell, 2006, xiv, 260pp, ills. ISBN 1869857941, Hbk, €40)

The Archaeology of Rural Life in Ireland Project, sponsored by Illinois State University, began in 1994 and fieldwork has been undertaken annually since then. Excavations

have been carried out at three tenant village sites in north County Roscommon, and at an Anglo-Irish estate and a tenant farmer's cabin in County Sligo. This book presents research findings from the townland of Ballykilcline, Co. Roscommon, a townland depopulated in 1848 through eviction and emigration. The research methodology is described by Charles E. Orser Jr as 'anthropologically inspired modern-world archaeology', investigating daily life in all its cultural, social and environmental manifestations.

Tallaght, 1835–50: a rural place

Sean Bagnall

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 76) (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2008, 64pp, ills. ISBN 978 1846821134, €9.95)

Now an urban region, Tallaght in the 1830s was totally rural in character. Working from the standard printed sources available for every part of rural Ireland in the nineteenth century, this book describes the lives of the rural communities in Tallaght, examining themes such as poverty, housing conditions, health, education and religious practice. It was a rural world with many of the socio-economic features of provincial Ireland, and little enough in common with the world of the capital city nearby. Yet, the author demonstrates that the proximity of Dublin saved the Tallaght region from the worst effects of the Famine, through the availability of employment and support from the city.

Tourism, landscape, and the Irish character: British travel writers in pre-Famine Ireland

William H.A. Williams

(Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 2008, xi, 267pp. ISBN 9780299225209, \$65)

Travel narratives about Ireland were the products of, as well as contributions to, the history of Anglo-Irish relations. This study draws on the travel-writing of over 100 English, Scottish, Welsh and Anglo-Irish tourists written between 1750 and 1850 to examine the moral judgments observers made about the Irish countryside and its inhabitants. Sensing that something was wrong with the Irish agricultural landscape, as compared with Britain, pre-Famine travel writers tended to adopt stereotypes of Celtic, Catholic carelessness in the south and Saxon, Protestant neatness and enterprise in the north. Williams illustrates how, when the Famine came, the attitudes shaped by the moral interpretations of travel-writers regarding the Irish landscape and people may have hindered rather than helped the Irish poor.

A town in transition — post Famine Mullingar

Edited by Seamus O'Brien

([Mullingar]: Rathlainne Publications, 2007, xii, 208 pp. ISBN 0953792280, Hbk, €25; 0953794199, Pbk €15)

Landlord influence on the evolution of an urban community and the commercial and social life of a nineteenth-century Irish town are the focus of the varied essays in this

volume, the second in a series on the history of Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

The fishery of Arklow, 1800–1950

Jim Rees

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 79) (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2008, 64pp, ills. ISBN 9781846821189, Pbk, €9.95)

Arklow was one of the few Irish ports in the nineteenth century whose fishermen were constantly engaged in fishing, having no other means of livelihood. The fishing community of the town lived in a distinct area known as 'The Fishery', and this study explores this town-within-a-town since 1800, and traces the lives of its people. The work patterns, social structure and economic resources of the fishing community of Arklow and the reasons for the demise of 'The Fishery' as people were re-housed elsewhere are all investigated.

A Clune's Lane fisherman: my life as a Shannon estuary fisherman and boatbuilder

Pat Doran

(Limerick: The Author, 2008, 347pp, ills. ISBN 97809 55835001, Pbk, €19.95)

This book explores part of the social history of Limerick city, looking at the life of dock labourers and salmon fishermen on the Shannon estuary. It highlights the social and economic context within which the urban dockland region evolved, and in the words of an eye-witness tells the story of a changing world through the twentieth century.

Beneath the Poulaphuca reservoir: the 1939 Poulaphuca survey of the lands flooded by the Liffey Reservoir Scheme

Edited by Christiaan Corlett

(Dublin: The Stationery Office, 2008, xxiii, 352pp. ISBN, 9780755776061, Hbk, €35)

Few landscapes can have changed so dramatically in the twentieth century as that of Poulaphuca. In 1940, the man-made lake of the Poulaphuca reservoir submerged an historic landscape. During the preceding summer, volunteer field-workers collaborated with Liam Price on the Poulaphuca Survey, to record as much information as possible about selected features of the landscape that was to be lost. The volunteer researchers, drawn from the Folklore Commission, An Óige and other organisations, included Michael Duignan, Margaret Griffith, Françoise Henry, Eoin MacNeill, Dónal Ó Cearbhaill, Michael O'Connor, Seán Ó Suilleabháin, Terry Trench and Roisín Walsh. The documentation is now deposited in the archives of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and comprises a large number of photographs as well as documentary records of vernacular architecture, place-names and field-names, land-divisions, farming, folklore and funeral customs. This illustrated book provides a comprehensive record of the Poulaphuca region in 1939, a detailed snapshot of an Irish rural community at one point in time.

Newly published sources and guides to sources

Bernadette Cunningham

The Great parchment book of Waterford: Liber antiquissimus civitatis Waterfordiae

Edited by Niall J. Byrne

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2007, xxxiii, 300pp. ISBN 9781874280743, Hbk, €50)

The 'Liber antiquissimus', now displayed in the Waterford Museum of Treasures, spans three centuries, from the mid-fourteenth to the mid-seventeenth, ending with an entry on the mayoralty of John Livet in 1649. Its contents derive from earlier written sources, and the nature of those sources is discussed in the editorial introduction. Early entries in the manuscript are in Norman French, changing to medieval Latin and then to English. This edition provides an English translation of the Norman French and Latin sections, and a verbatim transcript of the Hiberno-English material. It thus makes accessible for the first time the full text of a highly significant source for the history of Waterford city. The edition is enhanced by the inclusion of colour illustrations of selected folios from the manuscript.

Castles, town defences and artillery fortifications in the United Kingdom and Ireland: a bibliography 1945–2006

John R. Kenyon

(Donington: Shaun Tyas, 2008, xii, 740pp. ISBN 9781900289894, Hbk, £35)

Entries on Ireland occupy over 100 pages of this hefty volume, in which bibliographical records are arranged by county and then alphabetically by place within each county section. Books, excavation reports, articles in academic and local journals, along with guidebooks to individual sites, are all itemised. Material published since 1945 and relating to castles and fortifications at any period from the Norman conquest to the twentieth century are included. An index of places and an index of authors are provided. The compilation is a synthesis of three earlier bibliographies published by the Council for British Archaeology between 1978 and 1990, now updated to 2006. Given the fundamental importance of up-to-date bibliographies within any research infrastructure, the failure of the Council for British Archaeology to support this publication seems extraordinary.

The Council Book of the province of Munster, c. 1599–1649

Edited by Margaret Curtis Clayton

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2008, xiv, 498pp. ISBN 9781874280842, €65)

Administrative records of the Munster provincial presidency and council are preserved in British Library Harleian MS 697. The surviving register of the Council mainly covers the years 1601 to 1624 with some additional material for subsequent years. This edition is a verbatim transcript of the entire manuscript, in the original language, usually English but with some documents in Latin. This is an important source for the

history of Munster in the early seventeenth century, providing rich detail on the interaction between the local population and the provincial administration in the decades following the battle of Kinsale.

Abstracts of Chancery Inquisitions of the seventeenth century for counties Fermanagh and Monaghan

Donald M. Schlegel

(Monaghan: Clogher Historical Society, 2008, v, 143pp. ISBN 0949012807, Hbk)

In early modern Ireland, chancery inquisitions provided information to the Court of Chancery and the Exchequer about ownership of land, with a view to protecting crown rights and revenues. As such they are an important source for the history of landownership and the evolution of estates in Ireland, and are made available here in a form accessible to local historians. The original inquisitions post mortem and inquisitions on attainder formerly preserved in the Rolls Office no longer survive, but Schlegel provides abstracts in modern English of the inquisitions relating to the counties of Fermanagh and Monaghan. These are derived from the rare Latin edition of 1829 issued by the Record Commissioners under the title *Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellariae Hiberniae asservatarum repertorium*, vol. 2. These documents are a vital record of changing ownership of land in the 1603 to 1641 and 1661 to 1662. As in the original 1829 edition, separate indexes of persons and of places are provided for each county.

Calendar of the Rosse Papers

Edited by A.P.W. Malcomson

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2008, xxxiv, 591pp. ISBN 9781874280699, Hbk, €100)

Extending from the seventeenth century to the present, the Rosse papers are an important family and estate archive still in private hands. As well as the papers of the Parsons family, earls of Rosse, this calendar also lists other material now in the Muniment Room at Birr Castle, Co. Offaly relating to collateral families associated by marriage with the Parsons family.

Papers of the Dublin Philosophical Society, 1683–1709

Edited by K. Theodore Hoppen

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2008, 2 vols. ISBN 9781874280842, €85)

Ireland's contribution to the 'new science' in the late seventeenth century was embodied in the activities of the Dublin Philosophical Society. Members saw themselves as belonging to a universal world of learning and were in touch with colleagues throughout western Europe. The papers of the Dublin Philosophical Society collected in this edition are drawn from a range of archives and libraries throughout Europe, and the complete surviving collection is published here for the first time.

Mapping Meath in the early nineteenth century, with an atlas of William Larkin's map of County Meath, 1812
Arnold Horner

(Bray: Wordwell in association with Meath County Council Library Service, 2007, viii, 60pp, 15 pls. ISBN 19055690175, €35)

This large-format book introduces the geography and early mapping of County Meath, through the large printed map of the county published by William Larkin in 1817. The map was based on a detailed survey of the county undertaken by Larkin between 1804 and 1812. The six sheets of Larkin's original map are here divided and reproduced as a 24-page atlas at a reduced scale. The map provides an important record of the place-names, roads, settlements and landscapes of the county a generation before the work of the Ordnance Survey. A companion atlas on the mapping of County Offaly was produced by the same author and publisher in 2006.

Photographs and photography in Irish local history
Liam Kelly

(Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History) (Dublin: Four Courts, 2008, 120pp, ills. ISBN 9781846821257, Hbk, €39.95; 9781846821264, Pbk, €19.95)

Historians have, in the past, tended to gloss over photographic sources, using them to illustrate a finished work rather than as a research tool. This guide suggests ways in which photographs may be systematically used to extract reliable information about Irish life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It traces the development of photography in Ireland and records where the best photographic collections are housed and how they can be accessed.

Ordnance Survey letters Offaly; letters containing information relative to the antiquities of the King's County collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1837–38

Edited with an introduction by Michael Herity MRIA (Dublin: Four Masters Press, 2008, xviii, 215pp. ISBN 9781903538111, Hbk, €60)

Seven volumes of Ordnance Survey Letters have now been published in this series, and others are planned. The correspondence of John O'Donovan and Thomas O'Connor, dating from when they were researching the place-names of County Offaly in the winter of 1837–8, are presented here. While residing in Offaly O'Donovan concerned himself with reconstructing the ancient territories of the region, and he also provided a lengthy description of the antiquities preserved at Clonmacnoise.

The Prendergast letters: correspondence from Famine-era Ireland, 1840–1850

Edited by Shelley Barber (Amherst, and Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2006, xi, 202pp. ISBN 9781558495500, Hbk, \$29.95)

Boston College's Burns Library houses the Prendergast Letters Collection, which record the experiences of a County Kerry family in the Famine years. As well as family details, the letters contain information about the economy, agriculture, and national politics. Transcripts of the 48 letters from James and Elizabeth Prendergast in Milltown, Co. Kerry, to their sons and daughter who had emigrated to Boston are published in full here, along with interpretative essays by Ruth Ann Harris and Marie Daly.

Theme Conference: Farming Systems and Settlement

Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement and The Agricultural History Society of Ireland

6–8 March 2009

All Hallows College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Report by Charles Doherty and David Fleming

Our theme conference was a great success. We had an average attendance of 70 participants. What follows is a brief synopsis of the lectures delivered during the course of the conference and apologies to any lecturer if we did not get it quite right.

On the Friday evening the theme of the conference was addressed in a paper prepared by Martin Downes and Liam Downey and delivered by Martin Downes. They proposed that a farm is an ecosystem when its boundaries are defined. Within that system energy is required and whatever is needed to build that energy may change but it is always present and is recycled. All energy that matters is trapped in plants (for food) and animals from which we derive our sustenance. We were given a clear exposition of the role of minerals and the problems of the loss of them and the need for replacement through microbial action. The diversity of management goals was discussed. This set the conference off to a great start and was particularly important to the non-scientific members of the audience for whom a farming *system* now made a lot of sense.

On the Saturday morning Finbar McCormick spoke about ‘agriculture and settlement change in early medieval Ireland’. He spoke of the role of ring-forts in protecting cattle from raids and the importance of the milch cow as a basis of the economy. He stressed that wealth cannot be accumulated with cattle, referring to the role of cattle in ancient societies. He emphasised the decline of the ring-fort after 800 and associated this with a shift from cattle as a basis of wealth to grain—coinciding with an increase in the use of silver that replaced cattle as a unit of wealth. He suggested that the decline of ring-forts began in Leinster first and that the appearance of platform or raised raths happened in areas of grain production. During the comments and questions afterwards it was clear that not everyone agreed with this analysis but this simply served to show that this approach is at the cutting edge of scholarship.

Leaving the early medieval period Margaret Murphy and Niall Brady gave a talk on ‘agriculture and settlement at Forth / Castlemore in county Carlow c.1200–1400: archaeological and documentary approaches.’ Their theme concerned the Normans who came from areas where the manorial village was the norm. Large-scale arable needed labourers and nucleated settlement. The Normans also occupied the best agricultural land. There was a castle at Castlemore and in 1220 the site was referred to as a borough. Documents from the 1280s consist of burgage and domain accounts. There were eighty burgesses and 29 cottiers. Much could be learned from the account rolls concerning various aspects of the economy of the site. There were 300–400 acres under tillage. Winter oats and spring wheat were sown. Sheep grazed on the fallow. Tillage increased over the years. There was much information about the livestock; oxen, cattle, horses and sheep. Fluctuations over time were noted as was the role of fertilisers. The nature of the lordship was discussed — the relationship between residence and non-residence, subsistence strategies in relation to profit and the role of labour. The question of commercial opportunities was raised: local markets, proximity to towns and ports. Finally Niall Brady gave an overview of the scientific and technical methods applied to the site that produced such a depth of information complementary to the documentary records. This highlighted the extraordinary importance of the Discovery Programme’s projects that allow us access to the world of the Middle Ages in a way unthinkable in the past.

This was followed by Thomas McErlean who talked about ‘organisation in late medieval Gaelic Ireland: the framework for agriculture and settlement’. Thomas brought us into a world of large corporate estates divided into a hierarchy of lesser land units within which settlement and agriculture functioned. It was a system of mixed farming with wheat, barley and oats sown on the arable. The animals were cattle, sheep and pigs. Grain was less visible in the archaeological record but could be traced in the use of mills, querns and corn-drying kilns. He discussed the hierarchy of landholding within the system — the townlands making up ballybetaghs, the land that was set aside for the chiefs and the *tánaiste*. The role of short-distance transhumance to upland grass was examined and finally the nature of Church estates was mentioned.

Brian Shanahan introduced us to the Discovery Programme’s very important medieval rural settlement project in north Roscommon. In recent centuries, a tradition of extensive grazing farms has led to the fossilisation and preservation of relict earthworks representing the remains of older roads, field boundaries and deserted settlements. Systematic mapping of these features, based on aerial photography, followed by survey and excavation at

selected sites is beginning to reveal the fabric of a medieval rural landscape. Brian's paper outlined the methodologies that have been employed and considered the relationship between some of these settlements and their agricultural hinterlands. This was complementary to the papers that had gone before and brought yet another dimension to the nature of a Gaelic lordship and settlement in the later Middle Ages.

Katherine Simms's paper, 'the creaght: farming system or social unit?', explored the nature of this intriguing institution in medieval Gaelic Ireland. She pointed to the element of mystery that surrounds the late appearance of the term 'caoraigheacht' or 'creaght' in the Irish and Anglo-Irish sources followed by its frequent occurrence from 1390 AD onwards. While the term as it occurs in historical narratives and legislation concerns the phenomenon as a social unit, a village on the move, so to speak, the dates coincide with the rise of a grazier class in other parts of Europe in the wake of the depopulation and subsequent greater emphasis on pastoralism that followed the Black Death. She explored the meaning of the word *caoraigheacht*, and its relation to *imirce*, 'migration'. She examined the different types of movement that both Gaelic and Anglo-Irish lords undertook in the middle ages and for what reasons. She also looked at the way this institution was organised and how it was a response to the needs of a particular society at a particular point in time. It provided an astonishing example of how a part of society with its leaders could exist as a corporate entity on the move within a larger settled society.

John Atkinson spoke about 'the land of Lawers: lessons from the Scottish Highlands'. The Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project is a multi-disciplinary research project based on the north side of Loch Tay in the Central Highlands of Scotland. Managed by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD) on behalf of The National Trust for Scotland. The Project began in 2002 with all fieldwork due to be completed by 2005, however it is likely that analysis and publication of the results will not be finished until later. John gave us a unique view of this Highland settlement with its village, infield, outfield and upland. Archaeology and survey revealed a hidden world over time and how its various components related to one another. There was much to be learned from this project by way of comparison with medieval sites in Ireland.

Paddy Cunningham gave a riveting account of bovine history. We learned that Ireland was the fourth bovine country in the world. He spoke about the different species of cattle throughout the world—the *Bos Taurus* of Eurasia, *Bos Indica* of India which we find also in East Africa. He dealt with the separate development of domestication in Europe and Africa and the relative position of the Indian Zebu was discussed. He also dealt with the domestication of the horse by way of comparison. For the historians amongst us it was like a lesson in genealogy and an eye-opener to scientific method.

David Edwards spoke about the potential of the Ormond papers in the National Library of Ireland for scholars concerned with patterns of agriculture and settlement. His paper used examples of some of the rental and accounts material to highlight the significant variations of land usage in the Duke of Ormond's territories between 1550 and 1660. He argued that north Tipperary was generally used for cattle grazing, while Ormond's personally-controlled territories in Kilkenny had significantly more tillage.

Colin Rynne's illustrated paper 'Irish agriculture and incipient industrialisation 1750–1830' discussed the infrastructure established in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Cork for the storage and export of farm produce from Ireland to sustain military expeditions overseas. He laid emphasis upon the butter trade. He discussed the different grades of butter and how some butters had a stamp indicating their point of origin. Cork was the first place to measure the weight and quality of the butter in the barrel. The impact that overseas trade had upon the development of Cork was discussed and how this in turn had an impact upon the hinterland of Cork and even beyond. The gradual improvement of the infrastructure — road and bridges — that this trade demanded was also dealt with. The provisioning trade collapsed after 1815. There were pockets of industrialisation around Belfast and a great number of scutch mills around Derry particularly on the east side of the Foyle. Since coal had to be imported he discussed the developments in water power.

Liam Kennedy's paper concerned his and Peter Solar's recent work on agricultural prices between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. Kennedy challenged Raymond Crotty's thesis that the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815 was the crucial turning point for early-modern Irish economic history. Kennedy produced data for grain and other agricultural products which did not show any significant shift in prices in the immediate aftermath of the war. He argued that although 1815 had significant consequences for production and other aspects of the Irish economy, the period should not be seen as pivotal as it has been. His data suggested other turning points. The price of potatoes, for example, remained higher after the 1845–51 Famine than it had been in the first half of the nineteenth-century. There was some discussion as to why this may have been the case, and suggestions included the continuing effects of the blight and reduced production. Besides Dublin, the data for the rest of the country suggested that there were no great differences or regional variations in prices. Furthermore Kennedy suggested

that from the mid-nineteenth century Irish and British prices coalesced more closely than they had previously, suggesting a highly integrated market.

The conference was brought to a close with a lively and at times animated discussion on the themes raised by the speakers with Liam Downey acting as Master of Ceremonies. It was clear from this discussion that the conference had been a great success and that points raised could easily form the basis for future conferences.

Upcoming Events

TWENTY-THIRD IRISH CONFERENCE OF MEDIEVALISTS

27th–30th June 2009

Venue: Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick

Papers on medieval archaeology, art, history, language and literature (Latin and the vernaculars).

- Details of fees for registration, meals and accommodation circulated, with the Conference Programme, in April 2009
- Travel info re air, rail and road is available
- Those needing information in advance in order to apply to their institutions for funding should contact the Organising Secretary, Dr Catherine Swift, for an estimate of costs.

SUMMER SCHOOLS IN OLD IRISH AND OLD NORSE

Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, will offer Summer Schools in Old Irish, June–July 2009. The aim of the summer schools is to provide help to students who wish to improve their knowledge of Old Irish but who are not in a position to sign up for full-year courses. The dates are fixed to facilitate students wishing to attend the *Third International Tain Conference* at Coleraine (22nd–25th June 2009) and the *Irish Conference of Medievalists* (27th–30th June) in Limerick.

Each course involves sixty hours' contact time, spread over ten days, and there are three levels: Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced. Students choosing the Intermediate and Advanced options will be asked to take a short test at the beginning of the course so as to identify the best stream for their needs.

Beginners Old Irish Course: 8–18th June 2009. This course is for those students with little or no previous knowledge of Old Irish and gives the basic grammatical structure of the language and some essential vocabulary. It will also provide students with the opportunity of translating a variety of Old Irish texts, concentrating on those that have historical implications.

Beginners Old Norse Course: 20th–30th July. This course will be taught by Dr Katrina Burge from the University of Melbourne.

Visit the new website for complete details: <http://irishmedievalists.com/>

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Annual Summer Meeting and Seminar

June 19–21 2009

Venue: Dooley's Hotel, Waterford City

Theme: 'The Agricultural Revolution in Ireland 1700–1840'

Field Trip: The agricultural landscapes of the South Kilkenny / Waterford area.

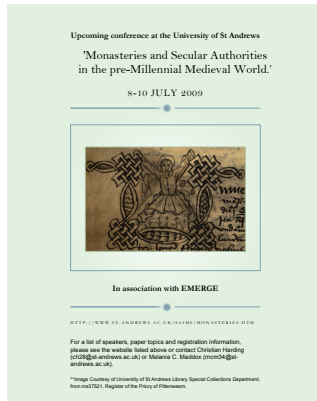
Autumn Meeting

Thursday 19 November 2009

Venue: Merrion Room, RDS Dublin 4

Theme: "Emerging Key Questions in 18th and 19th Century Agriculture"

Contact: Eileen.murphy@teagasc.ie



This conference aims to examine the relationships that monastic communities have formed with secular authorities across a range of criteria that includes political, economic and cultural concerns. It also aims to take a wide geographical view that incorporates the Continent, the Byzantine Empire, Ireland and the British Isles. By considering monasteries as institutions, but also their members as individual actors, the conference will help to define the various settings in which they operated within the political landscape, as well as in reference to one another. It will aim to provide a framework in which we can consider the importance of the monastery as a focal point of power and how that power provided the foundations for lasting relationships or for the genesis of conflict.

Colmán Etchingham (NUI, Maynooth),

Alex Woolf (St Andrews), Warren C. Brown (Caltech), Hans Hummer (Wayne State), Sarah Tatum (Manchester), Alex J. O'Hara (St Andrews), Roy Flechner (Cambridge), David Dunville (Aberdeen), John Davies (Glasgow), Christian Harding (St Andrews), Thomas Owen Clancy (Glasgow), Charles Doherty (UCD), Federico Marazzi (USOB - Napoli), Melanie C. Maddox (St Andrews), Tom Brown (Edinburgh), Albrecht Diem (Syracuse), Ann Williams (East Anglia),

Matthew Zimmern (OU), Leanne Good (UCLA).

TREASURES *of the* ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LIBRARY AN EXHIBITION OF TREASURES SPANNING 1,500 YEARS

2 February – 15 May and 2 – 19 June, 2009

Venue: Meeting Room, Academy House, 19 Dawson Street Dublin 2

Further details: Email library@ria.ie or phone 6090620 / www.ria.ie

Lunchtime lecture series:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 18 Feb | Peter Harbison, MRIA, <i>Unknown gems in the Academy's collection of drawings</i> |
| 04 March | John Scattergood, MRIA, <i>A French Book of Hours for an English patron: RIA MS 12 R 31</i> |
| 11 March | Bernadette Cunningham, LIBRARY, RIA, <i>Riaghail S. Clara (The Rule of St Clare) and the Irish Poor Clares</i> |
| 01 April | Angela Byrne, NUI MAYNOOTH, <i>The Wilmot papers: travels in France, Russia and Italy, 1801–1822</i> |
| 22 April | Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, MRIA, <i>The Cathach of Colum Cille — Ireland's oldest book?</i> |
| 06 May | Aoibheann Nic Dhonnchadha, DIAS, <i>The Book of O'Lees</i> |
| 10 June | James Kelly, MRIA, <i>The first President of RIA: Lord Charlemont and his manuscripts</i> |

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF IRELAND

Remaining Lectures for 2009

Venue: Society House, 63, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Time: Lectures are held at 7.30 in the Helen Roe Lecture Theatre

28 May 2009 — Helen Roe Memorial Lecture: *The Roman circus: Emperor Charles the Bald and Irish high-cross bases* (Dr Peter Harbison, Member)

20 June 2009 — Summer Quarterly Meeting, Brittany (During Summer Excursion): *To be announced* (Charles Doherty, President)

24 September 2009: *The RSAI Millar / Robertson collection of Kilkenny views* (Conleth Manning, Member, National Monuments Service, Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Past President)

22 October 2009 — Frank Mitchell Memorial Lecture: *The excavation of the great passage tomb mound at*

Knowth (Professor George Eogan, Life Member)

19 November 2009: *Same genus, different species: the tower houses of Scotland* (Geoffrey Stell, Architectural Historian)

17 December 2009 — Statutory Meeting: *'Sacred relics are more to be desired than gold or precious stones': the story of Holy Cross Abbey, Co. Tipperary* (Dr Dagmar Ó Riain Raedel, Fellow)

Remaining Monday Talks for 2009

Venue: Society House, 63, Merrion Square, Dublin 2

Time: Monday Talks are held at 7.30 in the Helen Roe Lecture Theatre

11 May 2009: *The excavations bulletin: a summary of forty years of Irish archaeology* (Isabel Bennett, Member)

14 September 2009: *Printers as public men: the printer's civic role in the provinces, Limerick c.1730-1800* (Jennifer Moore, Royal Irish Academy)

5 October 2009: *Mapping New Ross* (Dr Linda Doran, Hon. Gen. Secretary)

2 November 2009: *The Drogheda boat. (Excavation, recording and analysis of a 16th century clinker wreck)* (Holger Schweitzer MA Underwater Archaeology Unit, Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government)

7 December 2009: *Sea lanes: shipping, trade & the ports of the Irish Sea in the 16th century* (Damian McGarry)

Lordship in Medieval Ireland. Image and Reality

Edited by Linda Doran and James Lyttleton

Hardback (ISBN 978-1-84682-041-0) Published March 2008. 304 pp, ill. Catalogue price €55 / Web price €49.50. www.fourcourtspress.ie

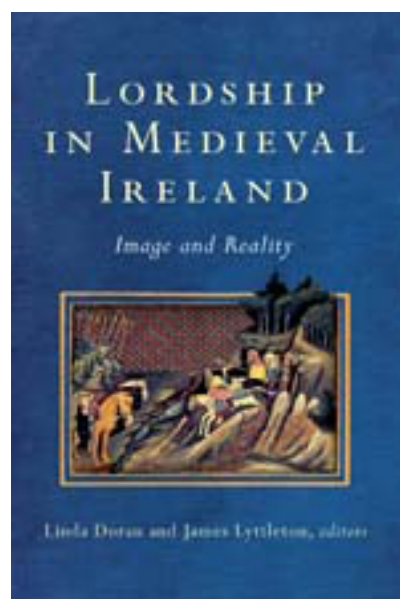
Taken together, the essays in this volume explore many varied expressions of power within local lordship societies in medieval and early modern Ireland. Both the potential and the limitations of medieval lordship are recognised, as well as the extent of regional diversity. One hallmark of this collection is the diversity of interpretation of the culture of lordship, ranging across Gaelic and English areas of influence.

Essays that focus on lordship within Gaelic polities are juxtaposed with explorations of the lordship of a foreign elite in regions of English influence in various parts of Ireland. The commonalities appear greater than the differences. The image of lordship, whether in public manifestations of power as expressed through castle building in the landscape, or through literary or artistic patronage, as well as the reality of military authority, economic interest, social values and the practicalities of lordship over men and over land, are themes that transcend the narrow distinctions of racial allegiance that have so often shaped discussion of medieval Irish history.

The microstudies of particular lordships that are collected together here thus offer the reader a variety of avenues into the world of medieval lordship society. They demonstrate that the attitudes to authority and social organisation that shaped the culture of lordship in the politically fragmented world of medieval Ireland can be reconstructed at least partially from the evidence of the archaeological landscape combined with literary and other surviving documentary sources.

Slowly but surely a new kind of history of medieval Ireland is being written, one built on a foundation of interdisciplinarity, which has been characteristic of the *Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement*, and openness to new interpretations of the essential building blocks of the medieval world. As some of the essays suggest, these new understandings are applicable not just to the medieval Irish past but also to the interpretation of other medieval lordship societies throughout the western world.

The above is an abstract from the foreword to the book written by Bernadette Cunningham.



Portumna Conference Abstracts

Peopling south Connacht: archaeological evidence from prehistory to modern times

Mr Jerry O'Sullivan, NRA Archaeologist at Galway County Council

From chipped stone assemblages of the earliest hunter-gatherers to tenants' cottages on landed estates, recent archaeological work on national road schemes in Galway has tracked the peopling of the county over several millennia. This paper will consider monuments of prestige and control, the populated landscapes they occupied, and the changing economic strategies that sustained them, with examples from later prehistory, the medieval period and the early modern period.

The mill at Kilbegly, Roscommon.

Mr Martin Jones, NRA Asst. Archaeologist at Galway County Council

Every now and then archaeological test excavations on national road schemes bring to light something spectacular and unexpected. A small bog basin at Kilbegly, in County Roscommon, did not seem at first to be a very promising location, but was found to contain remains of an exceptionally well-preserved horizontal mill. The old medieval churchyard at Kilbegly is on an ancient routeway between the Shannon and the Suck, from Leinster into the heart of Connacht. The mill was probably operated for monks at Kilbegly, on lands granted to them by the Uí Máine, and is mentioned in historical sources c.900 AD. The mill site was excavated by Neil Jackman for Valerie J. Keeley Ltd., on behalf of Galway County Council.

The Derryhivenny Castle Project.

Ms Aileen Burke, Archaeologist

The Derryhivenny Castle Project is an ongoing archaeological landscape study into one of the last tower houses to be built in Ireland. The aim is to investigate the Castle complex from the wider perspective of the landscape, using various techniques such as geophysical analysis, aerial and field survey, and research. Initially this was part of an M.A. Thesis. Later a second phase of research was grant-funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland. Phase 1 of this study comprised an aerial reconnaissance, field survey, and geophysical and topographical survey of the site, aimed at targeted investigation to confirm and enhance the results of Phase 1.

Derryhivenny Castle, which is a National Monument, is a 17th century tower house, located 5 km north of the town of Portumna, Co. Galway, and sited close to the right bank of the River Shannon. According to the inscription on the corbels of the machicolation, the castle was built in 1643 by Daniel O'Madden. The tower house survives to its original height, with identifiable upstanding remains of an inner bawn wall, two flanking towers, and a gatehouse. This paper intends to discuss the main findings from both Phases of research to date that revealed evidence that Derryhivenny Castle was possibly part of a far larger complex than previously documented, comprising artillery defences encompassing the tower house and inner bawn with outer fortifications.

Estate development in the lordship of Clanricard, 1570-1640

Bernadette Cunningham, Library RIA

In the century after 1540 the Gaelicised lordship of Clanricard was transformed into a landed estate on the English model. Evidence of the change was visible on the landscape. Fields were enclosed in some areas, new building styles were adopted in many of the most significant residences in the region, and in designated locations, notably Portumna and Loughrea, progress was made towards the development of towns. These towns were planned as part of the policy of estate development embarked on by Richard Burke, fourth earl of Clanricard in the opening decades of the 17th century. The towns were planned in association with the earl's two principal houses, the older house at the traditional centre of the lordship in Loughrea, and the new house constructed in the 1610s at Portumna. This talk will explore the context of change in the Clanricard lordship and explain why the building of a new castle and town at Portumna seemed such an appropriate thing to do.

The Clanricard Burkes and their connections in the late seventeenth century

Dr Harman Murtagh, Vice-president, GSIHS

Recovering their impressive Portumna residence and vast County Galway estate after the restoration, the Clanricard Burkes were one of the wealthiest catholic families in Ireland in the latter half of the seventeenth century. They made extensive marital connections with most of the other leading catholic families. This placed them at the heart of the

Jacobite elite in the short-lived catholic revival under James II. They were heavily involved on the Jacobite side in the war of the three kings, 1689–91. They managed to emerge from the Jacobite defeat, certainly not unscathed, but with most of their wealth intact. The family survived at Portumna until the twentieth century.

East Galway landed Estates in the eighteenth and nineteenth century

Mr John Joe Conwell, SEGHS, Historian

The illustrated presentation will feature some of the houses of the Galway's landed gentry class of the 18th and 19th centuries with particular emphasis on those in the east and south of the county. It will also focus on the composition of this landed class and will take a look at some of the more interesting characters within its ranks.

The Shannon Navigation.

Mr Colin Becker, Development Officer, Inland Waterways Association, Galway

The River Shannon has been used since earliest times for navigation and continues in this role up to the present day albeit with the emphasis now firmly on recreation as opposed to trade. This talk will look at the various schemes from the 18th century to the present day the purpose of which was to make the river into a useable navigation. It will look at aspects of the engineering works, the architecture and the historical context in which the works were carried out. It will also consider some aspects of how the river was used by local communities for their own purposes.

Sending out the poor: assisted emigration and settlement, East Galway 1845–1890

Dr Gerard Moran, Dept of History NUI, Galway

Between 1845 and 1890 assisted emigration was made available by the poor law, landlords, philanthropists and the government for those who were unable to pay their passage to the United States and the colonies. While much is known about the schemes at a national level, this paper will examine the schemes that were carried out in East Galway, the level of involvement, the attitude towards assisted emigration and the impact that the migrations had on the region.

“The Most Bitter Struggle of Them All”; The final campaign for the Break-Up of the Clanricarde Estate

Dr Conor McNamara, St Patrick's College, DCU

Marquis Clanricarde's sprawling estate still covered over 52, 000 acres in the hinterland between Loughrea and Portumna long after the break-up of the remaining large estates in the west of Ireland over the previous three decades. This paper examines the final campaign for the break-up of the Clanricarde estate in the two decades before its eventual acquisition by the state in 1915.

Servants of some responsibility: the herdsmen of East Galway / South Roscommon in the late nineteenth century

Dr John Cunningham, Dept of History, NUI, Galway

West of Ireland herdsmen, according to one observer, formed 'a class quite distinct from any employed in any of the English districts, being neither shepherds nor bailiffs and yet a compound of both'. They were responsible workers, liable for damage to their employers' stock, whether caused by 'hogs, bogs, dogs, or thieves', in their own phrase. This paper will describe their anachronistic working conditions, and consider the efforts of their Herds' Leagues, through which they defended their position in the circumstances of the land war.

Portumna Castle

Ms Jane Fenlon, Architectural and Art Historian

The building was completed before 1618 at a cost of £10,000 for Richard Burke, fourth Earl of Clanricarde and later earl of St. Albans. It was to be the new principal house of the Clanricards replacing the former stronghold at Bally Loughreagh. A fit residence for the newly created Governor of the county of Galway. Portumna is sited on a scenic spot on the Shannon, close by a strategic crossing place on the river. The plan reveals how innovative this building was. The lower section is massively constructed. It is roughly 100 ft in length (including the towers), each range is 20 ft in width and these are joined longitudinally by a long narrow space, 10 feet wide. This hall / space enclosed two staircases. The house was badly damaged in an accidental fire in 1826 and abandoned by the family who moved into a renovated stable block. A new Portumna Castle, designed by Sir Thomas Newenham Deane, was built at the opposite end of the park about a mile away. This was never finished and when the architect John Bilson surveyed it in the early years of the twentieth century he reported that there were no floors in the building. It is likely that the structure was abandoned because of the death of the heir Ulick, in 1867.

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
in association with
The South East Galway Historical and Archaeological Society
Portumna
MAY 8–10th, 2009

Landscape and settlement change in East Galway

Registration, Reception and Official Opening in The Shannon Oaks Hotel
Official opening: Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council
Conference Centre: The Shannon Oaks Hotel, Portumna

Speakers:

Jerry O'Sullivan, NRA Archaeologist, Galway County Council, *Peopling south Connacht: archaeological evidence from prehistory to modern times*

Martin Jones, Asst. Archaeologist, Galway County Council, *The early monastic mill from Kilbegly in County Roscommon.*

Ms Aideen Burke, Archaeologist, *The Derryhivenny Castle Project.*

Dr Bernadette Cunningham, RIA, *Estate development in the lordship of Clanricard, 1540–1640*

Dr Harman Murtagh, Vice-president, GSiHS, *The Clanricard Burkes and their connections in the late seventeenth century*

Mr John Joe Conwell, SEGHS, Historian, *East Galway landed Estates in the eighteenth and nineteenth century*

Mr Colin Becker, Dev. Officer, Inland Waterways Association, Galway, *The Shannon navigation.*

Dr Gerard Moran, Dept of History, NUI, Galway, *Sending out the poor: assisted emigration and settlement, East Galway 1845–1890*

Dr Conor McNamara, St Patrick's College, DCU, *"The most bitter struggle of them all": The final campaign for the break-up of the Clanricard Estate*

John Cunningham, Dept. of History, NUI, Galway, *Servants of some responsibility: the herdsmen of East Galway/South Roscommon in the late nineteenth century*

Sites to be visited: Saturday: Clonfert and other sites (**Guide:** Mr Christy Cuniffe, SEGHS, Historian)

Sunday: Walking tour of Portumna castle and town. (**Guide:** Jane Fenlon, Architectural and Art Historian).

Sunday: Derryhivenny Castle
(Guide: Aideen Burke, Archaeologist).

Annual Dinner: The Shannon Oaks Hotel, Portumna: €30 per person. This price is for those who have not availed of the 2 nights B&B + Conference dinner package €150.

Lunch: Soup/sandwiches/Light lunch €7.50 **or** Carvery Lunch €9.50.

Conference Fee: €60 / £56, Students €30 / £28. *Fee includes coffee, admissions and bus on field trips.*

Individual Sessions: Frid. €10 / £9; Sat. €10 / £9; Sun. €10 / £9.

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Contributions are invited on topics related to historic settlement in Ireland and the Irish-sea region, the history, conservation and interpretation of the cultural landscape and on local and regional studies. These should be sent to the Editor, Mr Charles Doherty, Early Irish History, School of History, John Henry Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4; or e-mail charles.doherty@upcmail.ie. Contributors are requested, where possible, to supply material both in typescript and on disk, stating PC/MAC, name of programme used to create document, and version number of programme.

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